

Palestinian spokeswoman heads for Gulf

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi headed for Qatar Sunday for talks on the Middle East peace process and Israel's expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories. The visit, the second by a Palestinian official to Doha in a week, underlines efforts by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to rehabilitate itself into mainstream Arab politics. On Dec. 26 a PLO delegation headed by Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, held talks with Qatar's ruler Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani on the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process. The PLO team also held similar talks with Omani leaders. Dr. Ashrawi crossed the Jordan River bridge from the occupied territories and headed for Doha on a commercial flight that departed Amman at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT). She refused to give any statement to the press. Mahdi Al Ahmed, a spokesman for the Palestinian delegation in Amman, said Dr. Ashrawi would hold talks with Qatar's emir on "the Palestinian standpoint on the peace process." He did not elaborate. Mr. Ahmed said during her five-day stay, Dr. Ashrawi also would discuss Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

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Regent visits air force base

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday visited a Royal Jordanian Air Force base and was briefed on the duties and tasks assigned to the base. Prince Hassan stressed the importance of the best use of available resources. Prince Hassan also visited an air defence bases. The Crown Prince was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan.

Yemen army hunts militant

SANAA (R) — Army units with tanks ringed a mountainous area of Yemen Sunday in a search for a Muslim militant suspected of an assassination attempt and bombings in Aden, security sources said. They are hunting Tareq Ben Nasser Ben Hussein Al Fadli in the Al Marashq mountains, north of Ibb province 70 kilometres east of Aden, the sources said. An Interior Ministry official told Reuters Fadli was a suspect in an assassination attempt on a Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) member and bombings in two hotels in Aden. Fadli, 26, is the son of the last Sultan of Ibban before former South Yemen achieved independence from Britain in 1967.

Arafat attends

PLO-Hamas talks

KHARTOUM (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat Sunday attended reconciliation talks between his Fatah group and its rival Muslim fundamentalist Hamas organisation. The participants in the talks refused to speak to reporters after the second meeting ended. A third meeting was expected Sunday night. Hassan Turabi, an Islamic politician who is believed to be the power behind the presence in Sudan, is mediating the talks which started Saturday night. Dr. Turabi is trying to unite the Palestinian ranks and discuss how to confront Israel after the expulsion of 415 Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. The Fatah delegation is led by Salim Zaqoon, member of the Fatah bureau, while the Hamas group is headed by Musa Abu Marzouk, head of Hamas's political office.

Israel to extradite Eddie Antar

TEL AVIV (AP) — Justice Minister David Libai signed an order Sunday extraditing Eddie Antar to face charges he defrauded investors in his Crazy Eddie Inc. electronics chain, a justice ministry statement said. Mr. Antar, who had declared his willingness Thursday to return to the United States, would leave in the next few days, the statement said. Mr. Antar had disappeared in February 1990 and had evaded the law until his capture in Israel in June. He had been living in Israel under an assumed name. Mr. Antar was indicted, along with some family members, on charges of defrauding investors by falsifying sales and profit records of the New Jersey-based Crazy Eddie chain, which he founded.

Israeli police fire on orthodox protesters

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police fired rubber bullets and teargas Sunday at thousands of ultra-orthodox Jews demonstrating against archaeological excavations. The protesters were angry the Israel antiquities authority had removed bones from a 7th century burial cave in the Mamila neighbourhood just outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. Protesters said the bones were of Jews. Archaeologists called it a Christian grave. The three-year excavation is clearing the way for a luxury apartment complex and shopping mall. Border police fired rubber bullets and teargas at throngs of black frocked protesters who hurled cement blocks, rocks and empty bottles in the ultra-orthodox Mea Shearim neighbourhood. Three policemen were injured but spokesman Shmuel Ben-Rubi said police should not have fired rubber bullets at the Jewish demonstrators. "It was a mistake in judgement by the commander there."

House panel assails bureaucracy, but offers support for draft budget

By Ayman Al Safadi and Masa Aloul
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Poverty, unemployment, fair allocation of funds, administrative reforms and abuse of office were the major issues that members of the Lower House of Parliament tackled Sunday in speeches that observers saw as the springboards for deputies' electoral campaigns. Beginning their debate on the

draft budget for 1993, few deputies attempted to grapple with economic issues and policies presented by the government in its proposed budget, preferring in-

stead to submit demands that have little chance of being met in light of the constitutional constraints against increasing expenditures earmarked in the

budget.

Deputies began to take the floor after the House was bogged down for three hours in what one deputy described as "a futile" argument on the legality of presenting the deputies' demands during their comments on the draft budget.

The House was also divided on whether to put to vote a motion for postponing debate of the budget in light of the failure of

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Masri: Policy curbs investment

AMMAN DEPUTY and former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri said Sunday the government's monetary policy was restraining investment and denying Jordan the opportunity to benefit from the abundant money supply in the market.

In his well-prepared comments on the draft budget for 1993, Mr. Masri said the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) had failed to utilise available economic tools to activate the economy. He particularly criticised the CBJ for the imposition of a ceiling on commercial banks' credits, limiting rediscunt rates and failure to use open market operations in controlling the money supply.

Mr. Masri said the CBJ moves drove up the cost of capital for investors leading many investment ventures unfeasible and denying Jordan ultimate utilisation of the finances available in the market.

He called on the government to invest its money reserves in economically feasible investment projects. Mr. Masri also criticised the CBJ for limiting the rediscunt rate — interest on CBJ loans to commercial banks — to 8.5 per cent since 1989 which meant that commercial banks, which have enough liquidity, do not borrow from the CBJ but rather deposit their extra funds at the CBJ for an annual interest rate of four per cent.

Islamist deputy urges convening of conference

CONTRASTING Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Foad Khalafat told the Lower House Sunday that the International Monetary Fund and its policies had become "a fate and eternity for Jordan" and called for the convening of a "national conference for economic salvation" to study the causes of economic deterioration and means to address them.

In a fiery speech on the draft budget for 1993, Mr. Khalafat called for involving citizens in the economic reform programme and a government report on the reality of the economic situation in the Kingdom.

Israelis terrorise exiled Palestinians

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Artillery shells fired by Israel and its surrogate militia crashed around a camp housing 415 Palestinian evictees in southeast Lebanon overnight. Security sources said Sunday there were no casualties.

They said Israeli troops and militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) unleashed 10 rounds of 66-millimetre mortar fire at 9:30 p.m. (1930 GMT) Saturday that landed 500 to 1,000 metres from the evictees' camp.

In Israel, the army said its artillery lobbed a number of shells into South Lebanon after "suspicious figures" moved towards Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

"There was panic. We jumped out of our tents and watched the shells falling around us and were afraid one would land among us," said evictee Mahmoud Zahhar, head of the camp's medical committee.

He said shrapnel flew above the camp, but none of the 63 tents was hit.

Dr. Zahhar said the targeted area was apparently the mountainous route through which sympathetic villagers had been smuggling food to the expelled Palestinians.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Gaza physician-acting as spokesman for the group, said the men had received a message of support from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"I assure you, my heroic brothers... that efforts are being exerted domestically, regionally and internationally to force Israel to comply with U.N. Resolution 799 that calls for your return," Dr. Rantisi said reading from what he said was Mr. Arafat's letter.

He did not say how the message was delivered to the camp. But the evictees had said some Fatah activists sneaked into the camp through mountain trails to visit them last week.

The expulsion has helped patch up differences between the PLO and its main rival, the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas to which most of the evictees belong.

After a reconciliation meeting in Tunis last week, PLO officials and Hamas representatives were meeting this weekend in Khartoum, Sudan, in an effort to end a bitter rivalry in the occupied territories which had often flared into armed conflict between sup-

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1 killed, 11 injured in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers ran into a stone-throwing Palestinian crowd in the occupied Gaza Strip Sunday, shot an 18-year-old Palestinian to death and fled, abandoning their jeep, Israeli Radio said.

Yasser Al Sufi, 18, was the first Palestinian uprising fatality of 1993, and the 1,009th killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians during the five-year uprising against Israeli occupation.

Sufi was shot in the head in the Rafah refugee camp, and 11 other Palestinians were hospitalised, Arab reporters and U.N. officials said.

Also in Rafah, masked men shot and killed a 60-year-old man accused of collaborating with the Israeli authorities, Arab reports said. The army confirmed the death.

The killings happened as the army lifted a two-day blanket curfew on the Gaza Strip, imposed to prevent violence on Jan. 1, the 28th anniversary of the founding of Fatah.

A makeshift bomb exploded in the baggage hold of an Israeli bus outside Tel Aviv, causing no injuries, police said.

The bus was taking at least 40 passengers to occupied Jerusalem from the northern port city of Haifa.

In a separate incident, police said the body of a Jewish man apparently killed by Arabs was found in the stairwell of an apartment building in the heart of Jewish West Jerusalem.

"We're certainly checking the possibility it was nationalist, which looks reasonable to us," Police Commissioner Yaacov Turner told Israel Radio. He refused to give further details.

The radio said the man had been stabbed and bludgeoned to death.

In Holon near Tel Aviv, attackers slashed the throat of a 26-year-old Jew. Police arrested several Arab suspects but the motive was unclear. The victim was in hospital seriously injured.

Meanwhile, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the U.S.-backed peace talks in Washington complained that a soldier bit him on Saturday night.

Freih Abu Medeen, a lawyer, said he was stopped by an army patrol in Gaza City during the curfew. He said that when he got out of his car, a soldier slapped him.

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Regent calls for comprehensive approach to Mideast resources

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday met with a high-level Russian delegation and reviewed the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-Russian relations and emphasised need to bring about broader regional and international cooperation in the Middle East.

The Regent also renewed a call for benefiting from the experience of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in dealing with the economic, political and security issues facing the Middle East.

Prince Hassan said such an approach to the Middle East problem should be based on a comprehensive outlook, com-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives a Russian parliamentary delegation in a meeting attended by Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat (left).

binning financial and economic resources with demographic resources in a manner that would consolidate ethnic and cultural understanding, the Regent said, will

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Bush and Yeltsin sign sweeping arms accord

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President George Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin Sunday signed a historic nuclear missile-reduction treaty that crowned Mr. Bush's four years of high-stakes diplomacy. Mr. Yeltsin proposed an early summit with president-elect Bill Clinton.

In a glittering Kremlin ceremony, the two leaders effectively passed on humanity's hopes for a safer world to Mr. Clinton. "I hope he will take over the baton that was given (to) him by President Bush," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Bush, effectively ending his four-year turn on the world stage, said Russia's first democratically elected leader would enjoy working with the new U.S. president. Mr. Bush leaves office in 17 days.

"It means a future far more free from fear," Mr. Bush said

after signing the START-II treaty.

The far-reaching accord, after U.S. Senate and Russian parliamentary ratification, would radically reduce U.S. and Russian nuclear stockpiles and wipe out dreaded multi-warhead missiles that can hit several cities in one launch. (see page 8)

Mr. Yeltsin, pushing his commitment to hurrying cold war animosities, declared, "We will be able to hand over to our children, the children of the 21st century, a more secure world."

The Russian leader said he wrote Mr. Clinton two days ago proposing they meet to a third country. "There should be no fall in our relations with the new administration," he said, because any fall in the bilateral relations between the superpowers would give cause for concern.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Yeltsin met

in a two-hour fireside summit that touched also on the conflict in shattered Yugoslavia and Mr. Yeltsin's troubled campaign to rescue Russia's faltering economy.

Before returning to Washington, Mr. Bush flew to Paris for a final meeting with French President Francois Mitterrand, hoping to improve prospects for adopting of a new U.N. Security Council resolution to keep Serbian planes out of the skies over embattled Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Mr. Bush told reporters he did not want to "quantify" differences in the U.S. and Russian positions on Yugoslavia. He said their positions "are very close."

Mr. Yeltsin agreed, but stressed the need for pursuing a diplomatic solution to the fighting in Bosnia that has claimed more

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Salary hike hinges on boost in revenue

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Finance Basel Jarrah said Sunday the government would not raise the salaries of public sector employees if the extra expenditure meant an increased deficit in the 1993 budget.

"We will not allow an increased deficit but will approve the raise if it was possible to arrange within the projected deficit," Mr. Jarrah told the Jordan Times.

The Finance Committee of the Lower House of Parliament has recommended that the government grant a monthly increase of JD 20 to government employees.

In its report to the House on the draft budget, Sunday, the committee asked the House to endorse its recommendation for the raise in light of the "declining purchasing power of the income of public sector employees and limited income citizens."

The chairman of the committee, Abdullah Alkaleh, said the government would be able to manage the proposed raise without increasing the projected deficit through "saving" capital expenditure for certain ministries that do not have the capacity to invest all their allocations. He also expected an increased government revenue which should finance the salary hikes.

The draft budget for 1993 put the projected pre-grant deficit at JD 280 million eight per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The committee has recommended that the raise take effect on Jan. 1 but Mr. Jarrah said the government would not commit itself to the raise until it was certain of the increased revenue.

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Protests wreck Ghali visit to Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Stone-throwing Somalis screaming "Boutros-Ghali go home" laid siege to the headquarters of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) Sunday and turned a visit by the secretary-general into a shambles.

A baying mob of several hundred protesters hammered at the gates of the compound in central Mogadishu, threw up barricades to prevent anyone entering or leaving and forced Dr. Ghali to scrap a planned visit to the mission.

Three of the U.N. chief's aides, including Under-Secretary for Political Affairs James Jonah, were trapped inside the building as the crowd chanted slogans against their boss and hurled stones and eaten grapefruit halves over the wall.

Leaflets tossed into the compound by the protesters denounced Dr. Ghali as a colonialist who had taken sides in the bloody clan feuding which has destroyed their country.

The leaflets hailed U.S. President George Bush, who paid a New Year visit to his troops this week, as the "saviour of the Somali nation."



A group of Somalis hold a poster during a protest march Sunday against U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's visit to Somalia (AFP photo).

Two shots rang out when a Somali guard in the UNOSOM compound fired his Kalashnikov to scare back a mob that tried to surge in behind two Reuters reporters. Several journalists were attacked but none was badly hurt.

Dr. Ghali, who was visiting Mogadishu for just three hours, stayed in the U.S. embassy headquarters of the U.S.-led task force in Somalia, before heading for the airport in a helicopter and flying off to neighbouring Djibouti.

"You understand now why the work of a U.N. secretary-general is an impossible job," he joked afterwards.

But the visit was a dismal start to Dr. Ghali's efforts to forge peace in anarchic Somalia. His trip had already been overshadowed by the killing of a British U.N. aid worker on Saturday in the southern port of Kismayu

(see page 2).

Dr. Ghali will chair an informal round of peace talks between 14 warring clan factions and splinter groups in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Monday and Tuesday.

On the plane leaving Mogadishu, a bombed out dust-bowl of a city torn apart by eighting two rival warlords, Dr. Ghali blamed the demonstration on people "who do not want the peace process to succeed."

He told Reuters he had wanted to waste in among the crowds to talk to them. But Lieutenant-General Robert Johnston, commander of the U.S.-led task force, had said no.

The U.S. military Saturday said it would send 4,000 fewer troops to Somalia than expected and turn more of the front-line duties in the war against Somalia's famine over to its allies.

A spokesman said Saturday that American commanders had decided to halt the marching orders of 4,000 soldiers scheduled to be shipped to Somalia.

That would reduce the U.S. commitment from the 28,000 troops the Defence Department originally said it would send.

Egypt rejects Sudan's complaint over Halaib

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt Sunday sent a letter to the United Nations Security Council in response to a complaint by the Khartoum government that Egyptian troops crossed the border into Sudan territory, Foreign Minister Amr Musa said.

Mr. Musa denied that there had been any incursion by Egyptian troops. He said that the Sudanese complaint made no mention of the border dispute at Halaib. He said Egypt insists that its border with Sudan lies along the 22nd Parallel.

Both Egypt and Sudan claim Halaib, which is a triangular enclave at the eastern end of the border overlooking the Red Sea. Egypt claims Halaib under an 1899 agreement with Britain that set the frontier along the 22nd Parallel. Egypt gave Sudan administrative powers in the area in

1902 because Sudanese tribes inhabit it.

The dispute was triggered in 1991 when Sudan signed an oil concession agreement with a Canadian company offshore Halaib.

Mr. Musa rejected the Sudanese charge made in a letter sent by Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Ahmad Sahlul to the U.N. Security Council Friday accusing Egypt of taking steps aimed at ultimately annexing Halaib.

Mr. Sahlul called on the council to use its good offices to secure the withdrawal of Egyptian troops from Halaib, over which Egypt claims full sovereignty.

He (Mr. Sahlul) accused Egypt of having military movements outside the borders... this is not true... not at any single moment the Egyptian forces crossed the border lines," Mr. Musa

told reporters.

A joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee has been formed to solve the border dispute. It has met twice but has made no progress. Mr. Musa said that the committee was scheduled to meet again in January, but instead Sudan sent the complaint to the Security Council at the end of last month.

Last month, Defence Ministry sources said that Egypt has doubled its border posts with Sudan to 20. The sources said the measure was taken several months before.

The foreign minister also said he still hoped the border dispute could be resolved peacefully.

Referring to a Sudanese announcement earlier this week that the government was taking over 17 Egyptian schools in Sudan, Mr. Musa said it was

being studied. "Any measure which increases the tension between our two countries is wrong," Mr. Musa said.

He said relations between Cairo and Khartoum "must not reach crisis or confrontation levels."

"Any problems between the two countries should be solved through the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee unless if the government of Sudan wants to disband this committee and this is another issue which we have not been informed of."

"If so, we will see then," Mr. Musa said.

Mr. Musa said he had sent a letter to the president of the Security Council explaining Egypt's legal stand in the Halaib dispute.

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Bitterness grows in Khan Yunis over Israeli reprisals

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

KHAN YUNIS, occupied Gaza Strip — Tharwat Abu Tiyar still believes peace with Israel is possible, even after soldiers killed his 11-year-old daughter, Ranna, as she went to buy milk for her baby brother.

But the taxidriver warns that peace must come quickly. "Already, he says, too much hatred has been fanned in this refugee camp by Israeli reprisals for the slayings of six security troopers by Muslim activists last month."

"Ranna's death has created a feeling of revenge among my children," said Mr. Abu Tiyar, 39. "But if there is peace, they will forget about it."

The camp and adjacent town of Khan Yunis bore the brunt of the army's crackdown last month. The Israeli human rights group B'tselem charged Thursday that army abuses of rights in Khan Yunis were among the worst during the five-year-old Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation.

The 120,000 residents in the camp and town were kept indoors by 17 days of curfew. Troops shot and killed 11 people, including Ranna and three other children. B'tselem added troops also wounded more than 100 people, but did not specify whether they were shot.

Most were killed as Palestinians protested the expulsion of 415 of their people accused of being members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups. The groups are believed responsible for the killing of the Israeli troopers. Twenty-three of the expelled were from Khan Yunis.

B'tselem said Ranna was killed when troops opened fire to disperse a demonstration in an alleyway. Ranna was walking down the street on her way to a market.

Israel justified the expulsions as an attempt to save the

Middle East peace talks. It argued that Muslim extremists opposed to the negotiations had become too powerful and posed a threat to both Israelis and Palestinian moderates.

Dr. Salah Rantisi, a Khan Yunis physician whose brother Abdul Aziz Rantisi was expelled as a founder of Hamas, said Israel's plans were backfiring. "Hamas will recover quickly," said Dr. Rantisi, 31. "As a result of the expulsions, more and more people are supporting Hamas."

Dr. Rantisi said 50 per cent of Gazans and 40 per cent of Palestinians on the West Bank identify with Hamas' goals of destroying Israel and setting up an Islamic state of Palestine. But the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Hamas' chief rival for the loyalty of Palestinians in the occupied lands, contends that no more than 20 per cent support the radical Islamic movement.

The figures are impossible to prove. In the Khan Yunis camp, walls are spraying with Hamas slogans and pictures of the camp's expelled prayer leader, Sheikh Ahmad Nimer Hamdan, are pasted everywhere.

On the other hand, the main shopping street in Khan Yunis town is festooned with four bedsheets-sized Palestinian flags, an indication of support for the PLO and its backing of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Still, there is no doubt Hamas has emerged as a serious challenge to Palestinian moderates since it was founded in early 1988.

Hamas has found fertile ground among the 900,000 Palestinians in the impoverished Gaza Strip, where 40 per cent are unemployed and tens of thousands live in tiny cement-block shacks along muddy, garbage-strewn alleys.

With its network of mosques and charities, Hamas is one of the few groups that help poor Palestinians. Israel claims Hamas gets millions of dollars a

year from Iran and private Arab benefactors.

At the Rahneh Mosque in the Khan Yunis camp, youngsters can play table tennis, join the soccer team, check out videos or attend Koran school. Other mosques offer computer training and scholarships for universities in Sudan and Yemen.

A PLO supporter, who would give his name only as Zakariya, said Hamas gives \$200 monthly stipends to its activists. The PLO cannot compete, having lost much of its Arab financing after it supported Iraq during the Gulf war.

Zakariya said PLO bureaucrats were often criticised as elitist. "Hamas preaches equality among believers and this appeals to people here," he said.

Life in Gaza became worse after the army closed off the strip for two weeks in December, barring about 30,000 Gazans from reaching jobs in Israel.

Officials of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinian refugees, estimate Gaza lost about \$2 million in income a day during the closure. The agency began distributing rice, cooking oil, sugar and flour throughout the strip to make up for scarcities.

Israel, which for years blocked development in the occupied territories, is beginning to understand the link between poverty and Muslim fundamentalism.

General Danny Rothschild, who coordinates government policy in the occupied lands, recently urged the cabinet to increase investment in the West Bank and Gaza.

"When the average person cannot ensure his livelihood, he starts looking for alternatives offered by extreme Islam," Gen. Rothschild said. "We may have to do a lot more for the people in the territories than hold peace talks."

Islamists under fire in Egypt

The Independent

AFTER YEARS of bending before the Islamic winds, Egypt's national press has begun reflecting a major shift in public opinion and challenging those who would have a more Muslim society.

All six national daily newspapers, whether government-controlled, opposition mouthpieces, or independent, and the main weekly magazines, have in the past week or so broken with their practice of not criticising the Islamists. In the past such criticism would have brought the charge of being anti-Islamic.

Now, however, the press suddenly feels free to criticise the "Islamist" current that is, those people who seek political and social change under the banner of Islam. The home news pages, features and opinion pages are full of articles and letters from readers directly attacking the Islamists.

No longer is criticism directed solely at the more extreme elements, who were categorised as "terrorists" by journalists and government officials alike. Now the media have begun taking on the ideologies of the mainstream Islamist movement, including sheikhs preaching militant Islam.

Such overt and fearless criticism of the Islamist trend has not been seen in the Egyptian press since the days of the Muslim Brotherhood's campaign of terror during the presidency of Gamal Abdul Nasser, some 30 years ago.

Until a week ago, Egypt's top journalists and writers limited their attack to the extremists, with calls to the government to take tougher action. But since the weekend the mood has changed. Not only the extremists, but the established clergy, have been targeted with challenges to condemn the violence of some of the more extreme Islamist groups.

In the semi-official daily Al-Ahram, a veteran liberal politician, Tharwat Abaza, named the Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including MPs, as being behind the terror campaign that left six policemen dead in three months.



A group of Somalis run during a protest march Sunday against U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, who was visiting Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Media circus pulls out its pylons from Somalia scene

By Mark Fritz
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU — The hiss you hear is the sound of air going out of a story. With President George Bush's departure, the American media army that brought heat and light to this country is scaling down, leaving Somalia to wonder if its 15 minutes of fame have ticked away.

Drivers who once demanded \$100 a day for a trip to the airport are lucky to get \$20. Newly unemployed interpreters are canvassing vainly for new customers. Reporters no longer spread blankets in packed hotel lobbies.

Cable News Network (CNN) is cutting its staff to 20, from a peak of 43.

The cost of coverage probably will run the all-news network about \$2 million for December, said Robert Wiener, executive producer for CNN's Somalia bureau.

The three major American non-cable networks — ABC, NBC and CBS — also are scaling back and are discussing using CNN's transmission facilities, he said.

"There's other news in the world, and this is not necessarily a page one story any more," he said. "The story has cost a fortune for all the networks."

The Associated Press, which has maintained staff in Somalia without a break since the summer, has five reporters and four photographers in the country. It does not plan a major reduction.

Somalia sneaked up on the world as it slid into anarchy after the ouster of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. Hundreds of

thousands starved as warlords fought over territory and looters ran riot.

Then Mr. Bush announced he would send U.S. troops to ensure safe aid deliveries.

Reporters flooded in before the first Marines were deployed Dec. 9. They paid exorbitant prices for cars, guards and interpreters, and took every room in what for at least two weeks was Mogadishu's only hotel. Satellite dishes sprouted like mushrooms.

"It was crazy," said Mohammad Jirdeh Hussein, 47, who opened the first hotel, a shabby, three-storey establishment with 58 rooms that had been closed for more than a year.

He called it the "Sabafi (Journalist) Hotel" until Mr. Bush left. Mr. Hussein had reporters sleeping in a large public room on the ground floor, in ballways and on the roof, all of them charged as much as those with rooms: \$85 a night.

The hotel stationery described a place of "comfort, safety, luxury, for business or discreet weekends." None of the journalists, packed one on top of another in the hotel's hot, stuffy rooms, enjoyed a "discreet weekend."

"I made a lot of money," Mr. Hussein admitted.

His occupancy is off 20 per cent now, but Mr. Hussein insists the media blast woke up this "dangerous town" and allowed people to poke their heads outside.

"They really brought a semblance of normalcy," he said. "They were driving at night, getting to the seaport, the airport, setting up lights everywhere."

"Kids carrying guns got jobs

as guards. Cars that had been looted materialised as taxis. I even started going out on the streets."

Then the Marines came, landing on the beach with camera crews waiting to film them. Food aid was now protected by U.S.-led military might, and the journalists became alternative targets for armed looters.

The two-day Bush visit, which ended Saturday, became sort of a cutdown point for many news organisations.

U.S. Marine Lieutenant David Steele, a spokesman for the military operation at the seaport, said he recorded visits by 57 reporters 10 days ago. On Thursday there were 20; Friday 10.

Unlike during the Gulf war, the military has let the media run free here.

Marine Chief Warrant Officer Eric Carlson, a spokesman who served in the Gulf and whose master's thesis was titled "The Media and Manoeuvre Warfare," said the media can be an asset.

"The media can help when you want to establish a presence, a show of force, a demonstration of resolve," he said. "While their physical presence may get in the way, it isn't much of a show if it isn't on television."

But while relief workers appreciate the media — and world — attention, they will not miss reporters sleeping in their offices or hitching rides on relief flights.

"We're here to provide humanitarian aid, not be a hotel and travel agency," said Cynthia Osterman, a Care spokeswoman.

UNICEF officer killed in Kismayu

MOGADISHU (R) — A British aid worker for the United Nations who was killed in Somalia Saturday was shot in the back several times by his own security guards after telling them he was cutting their wages, a U.S. military spokesman said.

Details of how Sean Devereux, a 28-year-old employee of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), was killed emerged as U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali flew into the Somali capital Mogadishu Sunday for a three-hour visit.

Mr. Devereux's death was the first murder of a foreigner in Somalia since the arrival on Dec. 9 of U.S.-led troops to protect food aid from looters and gunmen. It underlined a continuing danger for relief workers despite the presence of the task force.

Marine Colonel Fred Peck said Mr. Devereux was shot by one or more of his guards within a UNICEF compound in the southern port of Kismayu, 380 kilometres south of Mogadishu.

Most foreign aid workers have to rely on the local "protection racket" in which freelance Somali gunmen charge extortionist fees for their services.

Mr. Devereux was the UNICEF officer in charge in Kismayu.

"(He) told his security force that he was no longer going to pay them inflated wages," Col. Peck said. "As he was leaving after making this announcement he was shot in the back several times and killed."

It was not clear whether the guards had been captured. Col. Peck said he did not see how the presence of U.S. and Belgian troops, who secured Kismayu on Dec. 20, could have prevented the incident.

"This is an indication of the general methods over the last two years in Somalia where they settle disputes with a gun," said Col. Peck.

Extortion of relief agencies by gunmen, looting of relief supplies and protection rackets have been rife throughout central and southern Somalia's famine-belt, where more than 300,000 people have died of starvation.

A UNICEF official in Mogadishu said the agency had sent a representative down to Kismayu to investigate the killing.

The fear of an Islamic state in Algeria

By Chris Hedges
New York Times

ALGIERS — Almost a year after it took power in a coup, the military-backed government of Algeria is facing a declining economy, deepening public resentment and mounting armed attacks by Islamic militants, and many Western diplomats in Algiers say they expect it to fall within a year in favour of an Islamic government.

The Algerian crisis is now the most pressing concern of Western diplomats in the region, especially those from France, which has a large Algerian population and might have to absorb waves of immigrants fleeing an Islamic state.

But the diplomats' longer-term concern is for an Algerian fundamentalist government's influence elsewhere in North Africa, including the West's biggest Arab ally, Egypt.

"When Iran became an Islamic state it shook the Arab world, even though Iran is Persian and its rulers are Shiite rather than mainstream Sunni Muslims," a senior Western diplomat said. "If Algeria is handed over to fundamentalists it will have a catalytic effect in the region, much as we saw with the collapse of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe."

Most Western governments, including the United States, are said in hope that by refusing to lend significant backing to the

tottering Algerian junta they can moderate the severity of the Islamic government that may follow. Some diplomats said they hoped for the emergence of a coalition between the army, the tradition arbiters of power, and the militants.

"We must begin to have a dialogue with the fundamentalist movements throughout the region, as unpleasant as many of us find the task, because it is they who seem set to inherit power," a European diplomat said.

One of those who may join such a dialogue is Warren M. Christopher, President-elect Bill Clinton's designate for secretary of state, who worked closely with the Algerian authorities for the release of American hostages taken at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. But Egyptian, Syrian, Moroccan and Tunisian officials, fearful that their own fundamentalist movements will receive a significant boost from the creation of an Islamic state in Algeria, are doing their best to shore up the junta.

Egyptian authorities, who work closely with the Algerian security forces, are shipping in Muslim clerics to try to challenge the militants on theological grounds.

It would appear, however, that Algerians' widespread dissatisfaction with their government is rooted in economics, and that the fundamentalists' appeal among Algeria's urban, secularised majority lies more in their reputation for incorruptibility than in their religious conviction.

Government officials in Algeria believe that if they can crush the Islamic movement and rant through economic austerity measures, they can regain control of the country. The government has promised presidential election by the end of 1993.

"The crux of the problem is economic," said Abdel Hamid Chebbouch, a Foreign Ministry official.

"Once we help the young people find work and bring down the cost of living the situation will be different." But opposition leaders say that few Algerians are in the mood to make further sacrifices, especially as the government has moved to reverse some of the market-oriented policies introduced by its predecessor and has failed to tackle what many Algerians believe is widespread corruption within the government.

"No one recognises the legitimacy of this regime, and no one is going to endure an economic austerity programme imposed by these officials," said Mohammed Cherifi, a former minister of trade. "If we do not get some kind of representative government very soon we will face chaos."

Salaries are ravaged by a 40 per cent inflation rate, and unemployment is well above 20 per cent, with about half of the labour force under employed. Lacking spare parts and foreign exchange to import raw materials the state enterprises that formed

the backbone of the centralised economy operate at 50 per cent capacity. Many companies are unable to pay workers on time and there have been numerous strikes.

The lifting of food subsidies this summer has doubled the cost of many basic commodities, and the housing shortage is so pronounced that dozens of people often share a single apartment.

The junta, backed by the army, seized power in a coup in January that forced out President Chadli Benjedid, who promoted democratic policies that led to the nation's first free election a year ago.

The elections appeared set to give the militant Islamic Salvation Front an overwhelming majority in the Algerian Parliament. But the second and decisive round of the elections, scheduled for January, was cancelled after the coup, and the first-round results were thrown out.

The Islamic Front, known by its French acronym, FIS, calls for an Islamic state that would reject the political and cultural values of the West. It was outlawed in March and driven underground by the five-man junta known as the High State Council that has ruled the country since the coup.

The Islamic movement, denied power through the ballot box, has mounted an armed revolt against the government with Western diplomats contend, significant help from some supporters inside the armed forces.

Archaeologist helps find important sculpture in Syria

CHICAGO (AP) — A 4,300-year-old clay horse unearthed in Syria last fall by a University of Chicago expedition proves domestic horses existed in the area earlier than previously believed, an anthropologist says.

"This is a very important discovery because it shows that the domestic horse was more important in the ancient near east than some scholars have thought," said Juris Zarins, an anthropologist professor at Southwest Missouri State University.

Horses were essential to the development of empires, said Mr. Zarins, who studies the role of horses in civilisation. Horses moved chariots, sped transportation and empowered armies, he said.

The figurine, about 7.5 centimetres high and about 5 centimetres across, was dug from a trench at Tell Al Swayhat, an archaeological site in the desert about 320 kilometres northeast of Damascus.

The figurine probably dates from 2300 B.C., about 500 years earlier than domestic horses were thought to have existed there, said Thomas Holland, an archaeologist and researcher with the University's Oriental Institute who led the five-person team.

"We can see from the care that was obviously taken in making the horse that the animal was well regarded," he said Friday.

The figurine's mane and ears are molded with strips of clay. It appears to signify a domestic horse because of a hole in its muzzle, where a ring would be placed for reins.

The ancient community of Tell Al Swayhat was in the Upper Mesopotamian region, home of some of the world's early empires.

Historians believe the city was destroyed in an attack about 2200 B.C.

Journalists held for reporting Algerian attack

ALGIERS (AP) — Police detained the editor and three journalists of a top Algerian daily Sunday after the newspaper was suspended for reporting the slaying of five police officers before the information was officially released.

Omar Belhouche, editor of the French-language Al Watani, and journalists Omar Berbiche, Tayeb Belghiche and Ahmad Aneer were taken into custody Saturday night after authorities indefinitely suspended the paper's right to publish.

The newspaper's other employees, who announced the detention in a communiqué, demanded the immediate release of their colleagues and called on the press and all democratic forces to denounce this arbitrary, illegal and scandalous incarceration.

Authorities did not immediately confirm the detention. Al Watani's suspension by the Ministry of Communications and Culture was reported Saturday by state radio.

Al Watani reported Saturday that five police officers had their throats cut and were killed by bandits raiding a police station at Laghouat, 400 kilometres south of Algiers.

The attackers, presumably Islamic extremists, stole four machine-pistols and assault rifles, the paper said. Officials have not confirmed the information, but Al Watani has a good reputation for accuracy.

In announcing the suspension, the ministry said that the report had "prematurely revealed information that seriously undermined an investigation of a criminal action" at an installation run by the security forces.

The attack ranks among the bloodiest in the Muslim fundamentalist campaign to destabilise the country.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 771111-12

PROGRAMME TWO
12:00 Papa Poule
12:15 News in French
12:30 Magazine Sportif
12:45 News in Hebrew
13:00 News in Arabic
13:15 Step by Step
13:30 A Fine Romance
13:45 News in English
14:00 The Drimical

PRAYER TIMES

05:05 Fajr
06:30 (Sunrise) Duha
12:30 Duha
13:30 Asr
15:30 Maghrib
17:45 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth.
Tel. 210740
Catholics of God Church, Tel.
623785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 623590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623420
Pr. Jo Sella Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625226, Tel.
623543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel.
685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675091

WEATHER

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Amman, it will be partly cloudy and winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Amman Min./Max. temp.
Amman 3/12
Amman 8/20
Deserts 1/14

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Jordan Valley 7/17

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 5, Aqaba 17 Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 43 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdul Kader Al Lala 696048
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Dr. Shabaneh Ennan 784772
Dr. Nidal Al Dahlab 821195
First pharmacy 661912
Firdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637035
Nairouh pharmacy 626572
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637460
Nairouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
BRID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Sai'ra 273680
Alqada pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Hussein 248434

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue 63041
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 996390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 910230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Alkhil Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsan 664171/4
Shamsan Hospital 669131
University Hospital 945845
Al-Mushter Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Malhas, Al-Mahajra 77101/5
Al-Rashid, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Aray, Marfa 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital 09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732
Al Hana Modern Hospital 09999990
BRID:
Princess Basma Hospital 02725555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02727275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02347100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:15 Sudan (RJ)
07:40 Jeddah (RJ)
08:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
08:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:20 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 New Delhi (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 Bangkok (RJ)
19:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
22:20 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:00 Aden (AL)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
10:15 Khartoum (SU)
12:00 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
12:40 Istanbul (TK)
18:15 Paris, Beirut (AF)
18:30 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
19:00 Dubai, Damascus (EM)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)
06:25 London (RJ)
07:15 Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
12:10 London (RJ)
12:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
12:50 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
23:15 Bahrain, Muscat (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:15 Beirut (MS)
08:25 Cairo (MS)
08:30 Aden (AL)
11:15 Khartoum (RJ)

Deputies speak of people's needs

The following are extracts from speeches made by Lower House of Parliament members Sunday on the fiscal budget and their constituents' needs:

Deputy Taher Al Masri
Amman



Mr. Masri tackled the monetary and financial policies in Jordan under three headings: Control of credit facilities offered by the banks to the public, the rate of interest the central bank charges commercial banks — the re-discount rate, and the open market operations.

Referring to the credit facilities, the deputy said while banks in Jordan have lowered the interest given to the public on their deposits to 5.5 per cent annually, they continue to charge 12 per cent interest on loans for investments. He criticised the government for the high rates and said this was not conducive to investments.

Mr. Masri suggested that the

government direct banks to Jordan to invest the surplus liquidity in their possession towards successful economic projects by granting loans at lower interest rates.

With regard to the fixed re-discount rates, he said that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has fixed the rate of re-discount on loans given to Jordanian banks

at 8.5 per cent. But banks are not borrowing from the CBJ since they have a surplus of liquidity. Commercial banks are actually lending the CBJ money at a four percent rate which cancels out the role of the CBJ as bank of banks. Mr. Masri suggested the CBJ should fix the re-discount rate at a lower figure so that it can play a role in controlling the level of liquidity in the Jordanian market.

Mr. Masri referred to open market operations by noting that the CBJ should issue government bonds when it is necessary to absorb the surplus liquidity in the market but ought to deal with the insufficient liquidity in the market by pumping cash through buying securities available with the Jordanian banks.

Mr. Masri suggested that the government control financial revenues and direct them towards useful investments to help the productive sectors raise the level of their productivity so that the country can do without imports and increase exports and continue the drive towards creating new jobs in a bid to deal with the unemployment problem.

Deadline set for licensing of firearms

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) has issued a set of regulations concerning the licensing of firearms based on regulations issued last month by the Ministry of Interior.

The PSD called on Jordanians wishing to acquire a licence for firearms to do so before the end of the current month. It said that those who possess firearms that are banned in Jordan should hand them over to the PSD offices before the end of January against a receipt acknowledging the type and number of weapons given up.

The PSD statement warned that by February 1, 1993 any person found to be in possession of the banned arms will be subject to legal procedures in accordance with Article 11 of a 1952 law. The law stipulates that any person found to have manufactured, imported, possessed or transported banned firearms without a licence will be punished by execution. The law also states that any person who is found to have made or imported or exported or tried to export firearms or ammunition without a licence could be imprisoned for up to 15 years with hard labour.

The PSD called on those holding former licences for firearms which are allowed in the country namely pistols and hunting guns to call at police stations so that they can be issued new licences.

Phosphate exports register increase

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) in the past year exported 4,263,800 tonnes of phosphate to 21 countries around the world, registering an increase of 200,000 tonnes over the 1991 figures, according to Company Director General Thabet Al Taher.

The increase was made despite the drop in the overall world phosphates exports and despite the immense difficulties the company faced in world phosphate trade, said Mr. Taher in a statement Sunday. He said that the JPMC's exports to countries in East Europe during 1992 amounted to 518,195 tonnes, registering an increase of 100,000 tonnes over the 1991 exports to these countries.

The company's export reports during 1992 revealed that Jordanian phosphate was sold to New

Zealand and Austria for the first time in many years and that exports to Australia, the Netherlands and Malaysia increased noticeably in 1992 compared with previous years.

The JPMC, said Mr. Taher, exported nearly 20,000 tonnes of phosphate to Russia in part payment of Jordanian debts to Moscow compared to 242,000 tonnes of phosphate in the previous year.

Overall phosphate production in 1992 amounted to 5.2 million, registering an increase of 400,000 tonnes over the 1991 production, said Mr. Taher.

Referring to fertilisers trade, he said, that Jordan's exports of ammonium phosphate and aluminium fluoride fertiliser compound amounted to the same quantities of the previous year. Mr. Taher also said Jordan's exports of phosphoric acid increased noticeably over the previous year but no figures were provided.

Total amounts of exported phosphate and fertilisers earned the country \$305 million in 1992. According to Mr. Taher, the following countries imported Jordan's phosphate in the past year: India, Indonesia, Turkey, the Netherlands, Taiwan, Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Japan, Poland, Malaysia, Romania, the Philippines, Austria, South Korea, Russia, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Greece, Australia, New Zealand, China.

Company Production Manager Ahmad Mubaidin said that in the past year the JPMC depended on a variety of types of phosphate produced at the Shidieh mines in southern Jordan. Production of high quality phosphate met the requirements of the importing nations, he said.

The JPMC, he noted, has the capacity to increase its overall production to 6.5 million tonnes annually if more markets are opened.

Mr. Mubaidin noted that the increased production over the past five years has reduced the phosphate reserves at Hassa and Wadi Al Abiad and this has prompted the company to explore new areas for phosphate that can be produced and exported.

Mining phosphate at the Shidieh site is relatively new, but by the end of 1995, the total production from the Shidieh mines alone could reach 2.7 million tonnes, said Mr. Mubaidin. He added that production increases at Shidieh will counteract the decline in mining at Hassa and Wadi Al Abiad until the year 1995.

Referring to marketing problems, he said that the lack of sufficient vessels to transport phosphate from Aqaba is a continuing problem. Another difficulty, he said, is the insufficiency of spare parts which the company requires for machinery at the production site.

Iraqi imports through Aqaba shrink

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi imports through Jordan's Aqaba port have shrunk to less than one tenth in six months, and officials and businessmen say the Iraqi government as well as traders are increasingly turning to Turkish and Iranian ports for their imports.

The decline is clearly visible. In May 1992, "intransit imports" — the bulk of them food and medicines destined for Iraq — arriving at Aqaba totalled less than 44,000 tonnes in November 1992, compared with 569,962 tonnes in May.

Food and medicines are exempt from the international embargo imposed against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Businessmen say that there is a clear scaling-down of Iraqi imports of items classified as non-essential to the face of an acute foreign exchange shortage. But that does not account for the huge gap at Aqaba, particularly since there appears to be little shortage of many basic items in the Iraqi market.

Several other reasons are also

cited by Iraqi businessmen and economic experts for the dramatic decline as reflected in the figures given by the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JSA).

Among them are: — Strict inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels and related conditions imposed by an American-led naval task force patrolling the Red Sea lead to costly delays and diversion of cargo despite United Nations approval of the shipments.

— Price ceilings set by the Iraqi government make it even more riskier for private sector importers to expose their cargo to uncertainties.

— Many Iraqi businessmen based in Jordan were scared off by the execution in July of over 40 merchants in Iraq accused of profiteering and black marketing.

— New procedures adopted by Jordan since early this year have gone a long way in plugging loopholes which allowed the smuggling of goods to Iraq and thus the kingdom is no longer a lucrative transit point for smugglers.

— Austerity measures adopted by the Iraqi government prevent the import of many goods classified as luxury.

Many shipping companies have suspended their operations to Aqaba and others are charging high freight, again making it less attractive for traders.

— Dozens of Iraqi companies operating out of Jordan have closed shop and moved to Turkey and Iran, whose ports offer less exposure to the overzealous enforcers of the embargo.

— A significant part of Iraq's needs are met through barter across the Turkish and Iranian borders. Such barter is no longer possible through Jordan.

— The yawning fluctuations of the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar in Baghdad is a perennial problem for traders based in Jordan, the only country where the Iraqi currency can be exchanged.

In general, said an Iraqi businessman, "it is no longer feasible to realise any reasonable profit in the Iraqi market if the goods are imported through Aqaba." The businessman explained that despite the problems in getting goods into Iraq through Turkey and Iran, the returns were high enough to hold businessmen's interest.

Furthermore, he said, enter-

prising Iranian and Turkish businessmen were happy to take Iraqi goods — mostly dates and fertiliser-related products as well as limited quantities of trucked oil — as payment. The Iraqi government has been offering such products — most of them under state control — as payment for goods and services rendered by businessmen. In most cases, the applicable prices are as much as 40 per cent to 50 per cent lower than the international prices.

Another major reason for the decline of Iraq-bound goods passing through Aqaba was the suspension by many European banks of all contracts and negotiations based on Iraqi frozen assets and accounts held abroad. The suspension came after the adoption in August this year of a United Nations Security Council Resolution ordering the appropriation of Iraqi oil-related funds held abroad for war reparations and U.N. purposes.

"Most of the banks have now reopened their books after the initial alarm triggered by the Security Council resolution," said an Iraqi businessman, "but restarting negotiations and formalising purchase contracts take a long time."

Ancient cup found in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (J.T.) — In cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, a Swedish archaeological expedition has accomplished their excavation at Tell Abu Al-Kharaz in the Jordan Valley. The Swedish team headed by Professor Peter Fischer finished their third season and returned home a few weeks ago. Their preliminary report of their scientific activities was submitted to the Director General of the Department of Antiquities Dr. Safwan Tell. Abu Al-Kharaz is situated at a strategic point in the Jordan Valley where the Yabis Valley links with its plateau. The site is dated back to 3000 B.C. Many architectural remains such as wide walls, storage rooms with some jars have been found and dated to a period between 800-600 B.C. The most important object found at the site is an animal horn which has been carefully cut to represent a cup.

CBJ issues warning

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has warned citizens against dealing with "irresponsible parties" who try through placing advertisements in local papers to attract investments outside the Kingdom without obtaining the CBJ approval.

"The bank, warned against replying to such advertisements which violate the law on foreign investments."

The Central Bank of Jordan also warned the people promoting these projects without its approval that they will be subject to legal proceedings.

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION

Invitation for submission of prequalification data for the connection of Shidiya Mine to ARC railway line.

CORRECTION

Closing date in our previous announcement should read 16 January 1993 and not 16 June 1993.

M. Krishan
D.G.
A.R.C.

APPRECIATION
FOR CONDOLENCES

Al Kassab, Nabil and Nabdah families and their relatives and in-laws would like to express thanks and gratitude to all friends who overwhelmed us with their affection and sympathy in our difficult moments which followed the passing of our beloved:

MONA NADIM KASSAB
Wife of Tareq Shafiq Nabil

May God bless you all



Deputy Hussein Mufalli
Irbid

Deputy Mufalli said the budget enhances self reliance and seeks to find solutions to the financial problems from within the country itself, rather than by reliance on Arab aid. He said that self-sufficiency is a bad thing since it removes reasons for Arab solidarity, and it is especially bad at a time of attempting to normalise relations with the enemy.

He accused the government of failing to make intensive efforts to strengthen Arab cohesion. He pointed out that efforts made to normalise relations with Israel was not matched by a similar effort to normalise relations with Arab States.

On a separate issue he requested the government to turn Jerash and Ajloun districts into one governorate with Jerash as its centre. He pointed out that south Jordan has three governorates, and central Jordan has three governorates while the north has only two.



Deputy Anwar Al Hadid
Amman

Deputy Hadid called for increasing the salaries of public servants in line with the high cost of living. He said that there should be a more fair and equitable budget to all sectors of the Jordanian society. He called on the government to combat unemployment and to achieve an efficient use of human resources. He pointed to the larger numbers of non-Jordanian workers in Jordan. Mr. Hadid pointed out that the budget allocated JD 13 million for the National Aid Fund, to be spent on the poor but he stressed the need for tight control of the Fund's finances.

The Deputy rejected the sales tax, which was proposed by the finance minister to replace the consumption tax. He argued that the tax will be levied from all people dealing in trade and industry which will lead to increasing prices of produced items, he said.



Deputy Hisham Sharari
Maan

Mr. Sharari called for implementing a comprehensive health scheme in Jordan before the year 2000. He called on the Ministry of Health to supply the Maan hospital and health clinics which badly needed medical equipment. "The governorate's population now exceeds 120,000 people and needs all the medical care it can get," he said, and he complained that medical specialists in Maan are less qualified than in Amman.

Mr. Sharari said citizens in Maan are living in poverty, and they are the most likely in Jordan to have malnutrition. Nutrition-related health problems are increasing in the governorate since the purchasing power of citizens has decreased significantly, he said. He called on the Ministry of Agriculture to help farmers find suitable markets for Jordanian produce and asked Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Qawar to dig artesian wells in several areas of the governorate to maintain water canals and springs and to build soil dams. He also called for speeding up measures to convert Aqaba city into a free zone and remove all obstacles and bureaucratic procedures that discourage Arab and foreign businesses from investing in Jordan.



Deputy Fuad Khalafat
Tafilah

Deputy Khalafat called on the government to involve all economic institutions in the economic reform programme in the form of a national conference for economic reform. The conference should examine reasons behind the economic deterioration and means of saving the situation. He also called for increasing national savings to help raise the ceiling of national development and local production. He suggested that the country adopt a national austerity policy to improve the economic situation.

Deputy Khalafat stressed the need for restructuring the administrations of ministries and government departments and the reorganisation of local training and planning programmes.



Deputy Mohammad Fares
Al Tarawneh
Karak

Deputy Tarawneh said the draft budget did not tackle economic problems in industrial and commercial centres in central Jordan. To address the economic imbalance, he said, the government should establish a holding company in cooperation with the private sector. This company would have affiliate industrial and agricultural ventures that would be distributed all over Jordan and would provide job opportunities for the unemployed. Furthermore, he added, this would reduce migration from the countryside to Amman.

Mr. Tarawneh also said the budget lacked any mention of establishing recreational facilities in various governorates although it gave due attention to other educational and health activities.



Deputy Faisal Al Jazi
Southern Badia

Mr. Jazi made a number of demands related to the supply of electric power to badia regions like Rishbeh, Wadi Araba, Mamoura and Fira. He demanded that Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ali Abul Ragheb clarify the question of power supply to these regions.

Mr. Jazi also demanded that the Ministry of Public Works speed up work on the roads leading to Huseiniyah, Jafr, Petra, Athroh and Maan. He said that Al Rishbeh town in the Wadi Araba region lacks a water tower to distribute water regularly, and he requested that the Health Ministry transform clinics at Huseiniyah, Jafr, Marigba, Rajev, Eil, Disi and Athroh into comprehensive health centres.

Deputy Nader Thubeirat
The Jordan Valley

Deputy Thubeirat thanked the government for allocating sufficient funds for social, health, educational and youth services, but he said these services ought to be distributed fairly in all regions. Mr. Thubeirat supported the House's Financial Committee's report which included criticism of public administration performance in Jordan. He said that government offices suffer from favouritism which causes incessant complaints from the public. He said that the 7,200 new jobs created by the budget should be distributed equally. He demanded that the government impose no new taxes and said no increases should be made to the present customs duty since the public is already overburdened financially. He



also said that the assistance given to farmers whose lands were affected by the storms was not sufficient. He said the government ought to real extend help to the farmers in the face of the natural disasters.

Jordan
Times
667171

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Caricature exhibition by cartoonist Naji Al Ali at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Art Gallery.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

★ NFL "Wildcard" games and college bowl games at the American Centre as of 1:30 p.m.

The College

المعهد
التعليمي

Training Program
Jan 1993

Course	Date		Requirements
	From	To	
MS-DOS5	21	71	
WINDOWS	21	61	MS-DOS
MS-DOS5	91	111	
ARABIC WRITE	91	111	WINDOWS
WINDOWS	91	131	MS-DOS
MS-DOS5	231	281	
WINDOWS	231	271	MS-DOS

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Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Peace with most of its trimmings

Some of us on the Arab side think that we can have our cake and eat it too by subscribing to the peace talks with Israel but ruling out elements of normalisation with it at the end of the tunnel. It appears to be a hypocritical stance, through and through. It has been infinitely more honest to shun away the peace talks altogether and maintain the status quo in the Middle East than to pursue peace without contemplating normalisation of ties with Israel at the conclusion of the peace talks.

It may be comprehensible and defensible not to join the peace negotiations on the basis that the regional and international climate is not appropriate or favourable for them at this time. This would be an honest position to take. But to accept the peace process as the only viable option left for the two sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict and then show timidity as to how far the

Arab negotiating teams may go in reaching out for a just and permanent peace accord is something that lacks credibility and comprehension. The absurdity of the stance that accepts peace parleys but rejects the trimmings usually associated with peace treaties, becomes all the more obvious when everybody knows

that there is no way that the Palestinians, the Syrians, the Lebanese or the Jordanians can retrieve their lost territories without committing themselves to a full peace with Israel.

Damascus is already on record as offering full peace for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The Palestinian side had also reconciled itself with full peace with Israel when the Palestinian leader publicly challenged the Israeli prime minister to a summit for the avowed purpose of resolving the Palestinian case once and for all on the foundation of complete normalisation of relations between the two peoples. There is no doubt that this Palestinian and Syrian posture is shared with the remaining Arab parties. So why perpetuate the false illusion that peace talks with Israel are honourable but normalisation of relations with the same country is disgraceful?

This illogical posture that condones peace negotiations with Israel but condemns full peace with it is slowly but surely eroding even amongst the Arab masses. This hypocrisy exists among those of us who have yet to reconcile ourselves with the possible ending of the heritage of war with Israel. This sentiment is reinforced

every time the peace process appears to be heading nowhere or is deadlocked over fundamental issues. When Israel rejects the just Arab demands for complete withdrawal from Arab territories invaded and occupied in 1967 or shuns the legitimate Palestinian call for recognition and statehood, the chorus against normalisation becomes vindicated and strengthened. In the final analysis, therefore, what would make or break the cause of the rejectionists of eventual normalisation of relations with Israel is the prospect of achieving just and permanent peace treaties between Israel and the Arab parties on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. In other words, the fate of this issue lies squarely in the hands of the Israeli side which must make a decision on the critical issues of peace that still divide the two camps.

Against this backdrop, the Arab reluctance to open up their hearts completely to Israel is in effect a reaction to the Israeli footdragging over the vital issues that still make the peace process almost anemic. The moment the peace process appears to be heading towards an honourable and just solution, the voices supporting normalisation of relations with Israel will strengthen.

Questions tied to START

THE ARMS reduction agreement signed by Presidents George Bush and Boris Yeltsin in Moscow Sunday is indeed historic in that its scope and objectives surpass all other disarmament accords and treaties ever signed.

Aimed at eliminating up to 17,000 nuclear weapons on both sides over the next 11 years, the treaty provides a new meaning to the spirit of global disarmament and is one of the last nails in the coffin of East-West rivalry. START-II turns back the clock on nuclear arms two or three decades, but it is also accepted that it does not mean an end to the age of weapons of mass destruction since the accord still leaves thousands of nuclear arms for planes, warships and missiles in many corners of the globe. And that brings us to the key question: Except for the sense of relief that Americans and the former Soviet republics have at last taken a major step to end the nuclear threat facing the globe, what is in it for us in the Middle East?

While we have no quarrels with START-II, we do have a problem with those who profess total nuclear disarmament. And that has to do with our Middle East region, where no-one seems to bother about the nuclear threat that we face, except of course when it comes to an Arab country like Iraq.

Is it enough for the proponents of a nuclear-weapon-free world that Israel is promising that it would not be the first to introduce the bomb to a Middle East conflict? Is it not clear that Israel's possession of nuclear weapons is itself a big hurdle in the path of a lasting and equitable peace?

Does it need publicising announcements of nuclear tests and experiments before the world officially wakes up and accepts that the Middle East needs to be looked at from closer quarters in terms of the atomic sabre that the Jewish state is rattling, albeit silently, against the Arabs?

We would hate to think so, but that is how it appears. And that is worrisome to us. Let us put aside for a moment the perceived threat and get down to the "new world order," which, if we are to believe Mr. Bush, includes a nuclear-free globe (unless of course the new order leaves the White House along with Mr. Bush on Jan. 20). By definition, therefore, the new world order implies the neutralisation of nuclear arms — and other weapons of mass destruction — in all regions of the world. China, Britain, France, India, Pakistan and Israel included.

Notwithstanding our bitter experiences with some of the strange facets of the new world order, we hope there is enough left around for a completely new look at the nuclear realities in regional conflicts, particularly in the volatile Middle East.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Sunday discussed the question of inter-Arab reconciliation recalling a statement by the Arab League secretary general who called on the Arab leaders to transcend their differences and act collectively vis-a-vis the common challenges. It should be noted that it was Jordan which persisted calling for such a move, but it is also of importance at this moment to hear the call coming from the Arab League chief, noted the daily. The paper said that it should be emphasised that the Arab League bears a serious responsibility towards safeguarding Arab interests and therefore Arab masses would be looking towards the Arab League for a second step, paving the ground for reconciliation in deed rather than words. What we expect, said the paper, is to see the Arab League secretary general embarking on the necessary contacts and invitations to Arab leaders to convene a special meeting just to achieve the aspired reconciliation which is a very fundamental element in any collective action. Reestablishing Arab solidarity is a must and should be placed on the top list of the Arab countries' priorities, especially as the Arab leaders witness fast-moving developments and events that one way or another affect their countries' future, added the paper. It warned that unless the Arab leaders act collectively, they may find themselves in a position where they should not be surprised to see others shaping up their future for them and acting at will in matters affecting the Arab masses.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily tackled the failure of the U.N. Security Council, to date, to force Israel to comply with its orders. As was expected, the Security Council has proved impotent as to the implementation of Resolution 799 on the repatriation of the Palestinian evacuees, and, as expected, the council proved to be influenced by orders of the U.S. administration which is totally biased towards Israel, said the daily. As it is obvious to all, the U.S. administration has responded favourably to Yitzhak Rabin's call on Washington to remain passive with regard to the deportation question, added the daily. It said that this attitude no doubt has encouraged Mr. Rabin and his government to go ahead with plans not only to stifle the intifada, but also to deport undesired Palestinian activists. The paper said that despite the U.N. Security Council resolution and Israel's rejection of implementing it, the Americans are doing nothing to force the Israelis to comply with the resolution, but, on the whole, it added, The deportees' ordeal has exposed the Israeli leaders who have acted in defiance of the world community in a bid to abort the peace process. Furthermore, the deportees' persistence to return to their homeland has also won them the respect and the sympathy of the world, said the daily.

All the troubles of the world on its shoulders

By Adam Roberts

"All empires die of indigestion," Napoleon's remark applies not only to his own bitter experience of imperial overstretch, but also to our own times. It helps to explain the end of the Soviet empire, which manifestly bit off a great deal more than it could chew. And now a new nightmare looms in the tragedies of Somalia, Yugoslavia and at least a dozen other countries. Will the United Nations, like so many other empires before it, die of indigestion?

The feeling of overstretch is apparent in much that the U.N. does, and does not do, in the many crises of the post-cold war world. The familiar statistic — that more U.N. peacekeeping operations have been set up in the past five years than in the preceding 42 years — probably understates the gravity of the crisis which the U.N. is trying to confront.

Despite the veneer of optimism in New York, conveyed strikingly in the U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's Agenda for Peace report last June, there is an underlying stratum of deep concern. The U.N. and its members simply cannot cope with the terrifying "Agenda for War" that is emerging in the ruins of collapsing empires.

The concern within the U.N. about overstretch was evident in the letter of Nov. 30 about Somalia with which Dr. Ghali stirred the Security Council into action. In that letter, the moral imperative of taking forceful action in Somalia was persuasively outlined. However, Dr. Ghali continued with this warning: "The Secretariat, already over-stretched in managing greatly enlarged peacekeeping commitments, does not at present have the capability to command and control an enforcement operation of the size and urgency required by the present crisis in Somalia."

The U.N.'s position is perhaps even grimmer than these words suggest. In Cambodia, it is engaged in a vast operation to put that country together again — an operation which has run into deep trouble because of the refusal of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (i.e., the Khmer Rouge) to participate in the implementation of the 1991 Paris agreements by UNTAC (U.N.

Transitional Authority in Cambodia).

In the former Yugoslavia, UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) was set up less than a year ago "to create the condition of peace and security required for the negotiation of an overall settlement." It now finds itself engaged in a far more limited task, humanitarian relief, and its efforts appear feeble when set beside the terrifying force of Yugoslavia's ethnic warfare. So serious is the sense of overstretch that, during the past year, the U.N. Secretariat has used procedural sleight-of-hand in the Security Council to avoid involvement in at least one of the conflicts of the former Soviet Union — that in Nagorno Karabakh.

The U.N. Secretariat and Security Council are simply not well suited to coping with deep and bitter internal conflicts. This is hardly surprising. Controlling apparently ungovernable regions is an ancient and difficult prob-

lem of international relations, and it is one that the U.N. is not necessarily better equipped to tackle — whether in legal, administrative or political terms — than were the old imperial states of previous eras.

The U.N. Charter is largely a document about inter-state conflicts — such wars having been, for many in the West, the central problem of world politics. But in large areas of the world, from Yugoslavia to China, from El Salvador to Somalia, communal violence and civil war have long been seen as a much more serious problem.

Now there is the bizarre spectacle of an international organisation which was set up to deal with international war having relatively little to do in that regard, but having to cope simultaneously with a dozen or more civil wars (albeit with international complications).

The U.N. has had some impor-

tant successes. In Namibia and Nicaragua, it has helped monitor elections and end long-standing conflicts of a partly internal character. But when a country is riven by old and bitter animosities, whether or not classified as "ethnic," the U.N. may have as much difficulty as any other outside power in ending the resulting conflict.

The U.N.'s difficulty may actually be made worse by the contemporary rejection of most manifestations of imperial control. The crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, for example, strongly suggests the need for some kind of trusteeship arrangement — for the simple reason that Bosnia, whose ethnic mix is a microcosm of the old Yugoslavia, has never cohered as a state and will not do so in the foreseeable future. Yet such is our commitment to an anti-colonial ideology that we talk about military intervention in Bosnia without ever

daring to specify what political or administrative arrangements the interveners might find themselves either protecting or imposing.

Can the United States succeed where the U.N. has failed? Twice in the past two years — first with Resolution 678 of Nov. 29, 1990, (giving Iraq a deadline to get out of Kuwait), and then with Resolution 794 of Dec. 3, 1992, (on Somalia) — the U.N. Security Council has authorised the United States and partners to do its military work for it. This may well set an enduring pattern for the manner in which the U.N. will operate in a world of sovereign states. Both operations, however, have provided plentiful evidence of a reluctance by the U.S. to impose its own political order on a notionally sovereign state; and both have shown its anxiety to end an operation as quickly as possible.

In short, the U.S., with its deep sense of being a genuinely anti-

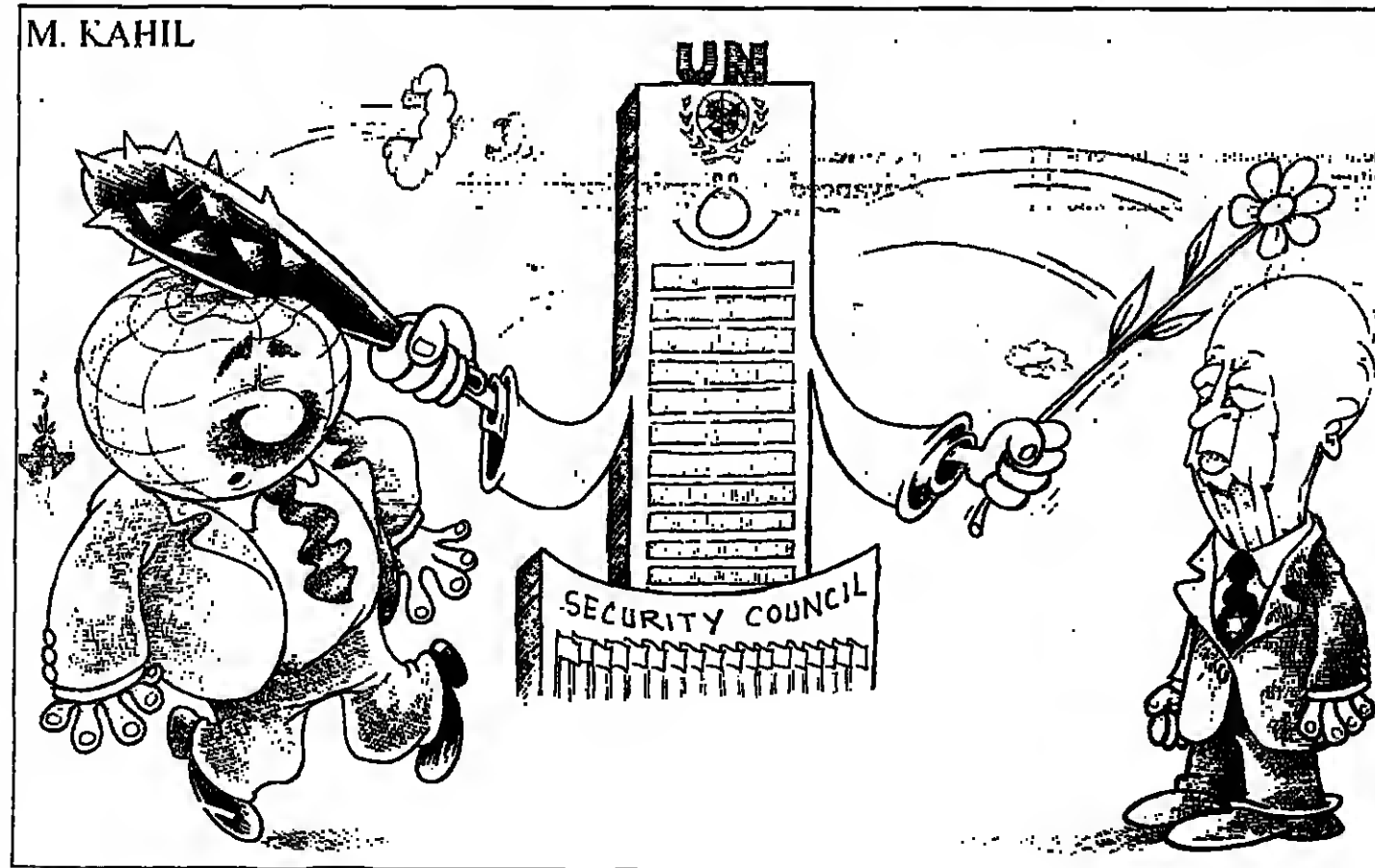
colonial state, and its memories of long and painful involvement in Vietnam, seeks victories, not enduring control over fractured societies. It wants to return Somalia into the shaky hands of UNOSOM (U.N. Operation in Somalia) at the earliest possible moment.

Bill Clinton's victory in the U.S. presidential election marked a triumph of domestic over foreign preoccupations; and even making full allowance for the paradoxical possibility that Mr. Clinton may get heavily enmeshed abroad, there is no way that he will commit the U.S. to the colonial administration of a Somalia or a Bosnia for as long as it takes.

There is little sign of recognition — whether in the U.N., the U.S. or, indeed, in western Europe — that international involvement in contemporary civil wars may well be very long-term; may require imaginative and difficult administrative as well as military programmes; and may be best avoided if the cause is not the willingness to say the cause. Nor is there much recognition that the anti-imperial instincts of both the U.S. and the U.N. may make a minority of problems harder, rather than easier, to tackle.

"The deplorable failure of European countries (whether in a NATO or CSCE context) to come to terms with these realities was partly the result of hubris: a belief that somehow we had evolved out of history, that war in Europe was scarcely thinkable any more, and that we were now armed with methods of conflict prevention which could be applied to whatever crisis might erupt. Any illusions should now be shattered."

It is time there was a serious debate about how states, regional bodies and the U.N. itself can effectively intervene in civil wars. Unless something effective can be done, the day may yet come when the hard-pressed U.N. Secretariat, far from feeling liberated by the non-use of any veto in the Security Council since May 31, 1990, and the U.N.'s new-found capacity for action, hankers for a return to regular use of the veto to save it from involvement in seemingly necessary but possibly hopeless operations — The Independent.



Hawkish dove up a lonely tree

By Ian Black

IF ISRAEL'S Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin has had any regrets in the two long weeks since he ordered the expulsion of the 415 Palestinian fundamentalists who are about to begin 1993 on an icy Lebanese hillside, he has given no public indication of it. With his voice at the gravely and monotonous low he reserves for crises, Mr. Rabin told the United Nations envoy, James Jonah, that the deportees — said to be supporters of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements — would have to go to a third country for their two years in exile if Lebanon would not help them.

Apart from a carefully calculated offer to allow one Red Cross convoy through the southern "security zone" to the Palestinians' much-photographed camp at Marj Al Zuhur — on condition that the Beirut government agree to take care of them in future — there has been no sign of flexibility from Jerusalem.

The Labour prime minister has been consistent in the face of an angry world since the convoy of buses carrying the blindfolded and handcuffed prisoners rolled towards the border on the night of December 16 while civil rights lawyers tried frantically to rouse



Yitzhak Rabin

the duty Supreme Court judge. Opinion polls taken last week showed that Rabin enjoyed the support of a staggering 91 per cent of the Jewish population for the biggest single expulsion carried out since the capture of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war.

Yet since then not a day has gone by without new doubts and second thoughts being expressed, often by the same politicians who made the whole unhappy episode possible. Mr. Rabin's blunt refusal to extend any unilateral humanitarian aid — backed by only

eight out of 16 ministers — has almost certainly reduced that figure.

Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, was already unhappy over a decision made in his absence. David Libai, minister of justice, abstained from the crucial cabinet vote and now says he wishes he had opposed it. Other Labour leaders admit they never

to the expulsion, even if many see a measure of hypocrisy in international outrage — "a television escape from the helplessness of death foretold in Bosnia" — one leading journalist had snapped.

Yet Mr. Rabin, in can-do, wildefy-the-world mode, will not budge even in the face of growing domestic unease; the chief rabbi of the country's Sephardi (orien-

they were voting for? Many remembered the decision to advance just 40 kilometres into Lebanon in 1982 only to find the army at the gates of Beirut before you could say Ariel Sharon.

And what about the deportees? Ten, the army has admitted, were rounded up by mistake, yet few of the rest fit the demonic image of dangerous Muslim terrorists. The Hamas gunmen who killed six Israeli soldiers, everyone admits, are still on the run.

Like all crises, this one has thrown elements of the background into sharp and painful relief. One of the most shocking revelations has been the furious reaction of Israel's own Arab community — descendants of those Palestinians who stayed behind in 1948.

Expressions of solidarity, marches to the Lebanese border and a defiant rabble-rousing speech in Gaza by a left-wing Arab MP, Hashim Mahamid, have been produced by the old spectre of expulsion and dispossession that links close to the brain stem of Palestinians everywhere.

This too, is part of the explosive chain reaction set off by the decision. What Rabin presented from the start as an attempt to strengthen moderate Palestinians

by hitting out at extremists now looks more like a panicky over-reaction to unusually effective violence.

It seems to have been designed less to encourage the Palestinian mainstream to pursue the slow-moving peace process and more to appease Israelis worried that the war against the intifada might be waning — a vital message if this fragile coalition was to survive the dangerous ructions of doing an historic deal and swapping territory for peace.

As James Jonah left Jerusalem empty-handed and the deportees settled down for another cold night, their future remained uncertain, trapped between friends and enemies hoping the problem would go away. If the lesson of the past fortnight is anything to go by, it will not.

Some Israelis hope that Rabin will come down from his tree, not just because of the discomfort of that bleak Lebanese hillside but because of their hopes for the peace negotiations, that must soon resume. "Are we forever fated," one commentator asked desperately this week, "to reach the station after the last train has left and years before the next one is likely to arrive?" — The Guardian.

House panel offers support

(Continued from page 1)

the House's Finance Committee to reach consensus on its report. After agreeing to proceed with the discussion of the draft budget and allowing deputies to "say what ever they want" in their speeches, 48 deputies demanded to take the floor. Eight deputies spoke in Sunday's marathon session which lasted from 10.30 a.m. till 5 p.m., with a 45-minute unapproved interruption caused by deputies' failure to return to the House in time from lunch break.

While generally praising the draft budget as a clear improvement upon its predecessors, the Finance Committee severely criticised government bureaucracy, demanded more action to combat poverty and unemployment, more efficient management of financial allocations and continuation of price controls.

The committee also demanded the provision of comprehensive medical insurance, salary increases to public-sector employees and more backing for the Armed Forces, which are not "receiving enough support in the areas of modernisation, armament and training."

"There is widespread administrative negligence and deterioration, complications, shortage of qualified personnel, strict centralisation, nepotism and paralysis" in government bureaucracy, the Finance Committee said in its report.

The committee said a number of ministers had used public funds to promote their personal interests and electoral purposes.

"Most of these ministers were deputies," the committee said, urging immediate action to combat what it called a dangerous phenomenon. "In short, the committee found the bureaucracy incapable of crisis management," the report said, calling for a thorough administrative reform programme that will redress the shortcomings of bureaucracy.

"Our problem is no longer caused by shortages of funds; it is caused by bureaucracy," it said.

While expressing appreciation for the government's increase of its allocations of the National Aid Fund — JD 13 million or 60 per cent more than the allocations in 1992 — the committee said the amount was not enough to cope with the problem and called for boosting the monthly payments to needy citizens.

The committee reported a violation in the distribution of the fund's assistance to governors, attributing that to abusing office for personal ambitions.

"The committee sees the (unfair distribution of expenditure among governorates) as abuse of office, especially that one of the governorates that received more expenditure is the governorate of the minister of social development," the report said. "This can be interpreted as using office for personal ambitions or future electoral interests," it said.

The committee proposed the House demand a government report detailing the amounts spent by the fund in the last three years.

In its 33-page report, which was read to the House by its rapporteur Mutair Al Bustanji, the committee said it was unrealistic to expect a quick solution to the unemployment problem. Pointing out that Jordan suffers

from structural unemployment and "behavioural joblessness" caused by the unwillingness of many Jordanians to accept certain jobs, the committee said the country could only reduce the problem but not solve it.

It said the government would not be able to provide the employment opportunities planned under the 1993 draft budget because certain ministries do not fill all the positions made available by the budget and opt for postponing the hiring.

The committee specifically mentioned the Ministry of Health and the Water Authority for failing to implement capital expenditure projects, thus denying work opportunities to many jobless people.

Saying that there are no accurate studies of the unemployment figures in Jordan, the committee called on the House to demand monthly government reports on employment opportunities provided to citizens.

The committee also urged the House to call on the government to review employment procedures at the Civil Service Commission to "ensure justice and consider suitability" of people chosen for different positions.

The Ministry of Labour should also take a more active role in strengthening the role of the private sector in forging a comprehensive plan to deal with the problem, the committee said.

The committee said it was not possible for Jordan to expect a complete end to foreign debts and action should be centred on easing its impact on the country. "Foreign indebtedness has reached proportions under which it is impossible to think of," fully solving it even on the long term, the committee said.

The committee said the draft budget for 1993 aims at achieving a seven to eight per cent growth in the gross domestic product (GDP), maintaining continued economic activity through expansion in investment, increasing exports, and growth of financial markets, construction and services sectors. The draft budget also aims at limiting the deficit in the current balance of payment to 10 per cent of the GDP, increasing remittances from Jordanian expatriates, curbing inflation at four to five per cent, controlling government expenditure and limiting the budget deficit to eight per cent of the GDP — 2.8 per cent less than projected for this year in the economic readjustment programme, said the committee.

It said the draft budget also aims at maintaining stability of the exchange rate of the dinar, keeping sufficient foreign currency reserves and limiting foreign indebtedness. The draft budget is also geared towards reducing unemployment levels, covering current expenditure by local revenues, "an achievement which ushers in the era of self-reliance in financing capital and current expenditures."

The committee called on the House to endorse the draft budget after considering its recommendations.

That, however, deputies would not do before they voice their say on it. Eight deputies took the floor on Sunday and 39 others will address the House when it resumes its debate of the draft budget Monday morning.

Regent urges comprehensive approach

(Continued from page 1)

The Russian delegation, led by Rostan Khasbulatov, speaker of the Supreme Soviet, was earlier received by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Talks during the meeting focused on the Middle East peace process.

Also discussed was the crisis resulting from Israel's Dec. 17 expulsion of 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon.

In comments carried by the Associated Press, one of the members of the Soviet delegation was quoted as saying that Moscow's role in the Middle East peace process was being overshadowed by Washington's increasing influence in the region.

"Russia has played an important role in the Middle East and is co-sponsor of the peace

process, but the U.S. is gaining the upper hand," the delegate was quoted as saying.

Regent meets British MPs

Also on Sunday, Crown Prince Hassan met with two visiting British parliamentarians, Robert Adley and John Rathbone. Mr. Adley is chairman of the British Jordanian Parliamentary Group at the House of Commons.

The parliamentarians and Prince Hassan discussed various issues related to the on-going peace process, including Israel's expulsion of the 415 Palestinians and they conveyed to their own government's dismay at the expulsion.

The Regent expressed his concern about the "over-loaded international agenda" and how this may ultimately lead to the marginalization of the Middle East. Mr. Adley and Mr. Rathbone assured the Prince, however, that despite the fact that Europe is

now engrossed in the many changes taking place within it, there is a strong desire to work towards eliminating the disparities that exist in the region, particularly in terms of economic cooperation with the European Community.

The MPs also discussed the question of the Palestinian evictees and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The prime minister reaffirmed Jordan's principles with regard to peace and a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Jordan's call for an exchange of land for peace.

The two parliamentarians expressed their understanding of the situation, and the ordeal of the victims. They also supported Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for their repatriation.

Israelis terrorise Palestinian exiles

(Continued from page 1)

porters of the two factions.

Previous reconciliation efforts had failed because of Hamas' insistence that the Palestinians withdraw from the Middle East peace process which the PLO backs.

The Palestinians fled their makeshift camp during Saturday's Israeli bombardment.

The 415 exiles, trapped between Lebanese and Israeli lines for more than two weeks, returned to the camp after Israel's big guns and tanks stopped firing late Saturday.

They said they were living in terror.

They were again disturbed by the roar of tanks moving on Israel's frontlines Sunday and by Lebanese troops who barred a sick deportee from reaching a hospital in Lebanese territory.

"The shelling was apparently aimed at terrorising villagers sup-

plying us with food," said Dr. Rantisi.

"We appeal to villagers to stop sending us aid to preserve their safety," said Dr. Rantisi, speaking after journalists saw a mule laden with supplies reach the camp in a rare daylight smuggling operation from Lebanese territory.

The smugglers were apparently hoping that Israeli troops would be able to see they were unarmed and were not guerrillas.

Dr. Rantisi vowed the evictees would remain in their camp until Israel implements U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 demanding that the Jewish state allows their immediate and safe return.

Dr. Rantisi said 10 evictees Israel says were expelled in error and can return were still waiting for the Red Cross to escort them to the Zemraya crossing into Israeli-controlled territory.

Israel's militia allies have barricaded and placed mines on the

road to Zemraya, about two kilometres south of the camp.

Israel says the 10 should return to its South Lebanon "security zone" through three other crossings which can only be reached through Lebanese government-controlled territory.

Marwan Hamadi, Lebanon's health minister and acting foreign minister, told Reuters Sunday the International Committee of the Red Cross could only reach the camp from the "security zone."

"We insist that any assistance or visit take place from the southern (Zemraya) checkpoint and not from Lebanese territory. On this we are quite adamant and we will not budge," he said.

"Israel is responsible for this whole ordeal," Mr. Hamadi said. Dr. Rantisi said the evictees supported Lebanon's position.

"The U.N. should force Israel to back down on its decision to expel us before we have a tragedy and many victims fall," he said.

Egypt

(Continued from page 1)

An unofficial translation of Mr. Sahlul's letter obtained from Sudan's U.N. mission in New York said the most grave development occurred on Dec. 9 when nearly 600 Egyptian soldiers, including a brigadier general, invaded Falaib province.

They built several camps and erected border signs denoting Egypt to the north and Sudan to the south, it said.

Salary hike depends on revenue boost

(Continued from page 1)

Ideally, said Mr. Jardaneh, the government would be able to assess its revenue by mid year and would issue a supplement budget including the raise if it is established by then that the increased revenue was attained. He said the raise would be retroactive to Jan. 1.

A JD 20 raise to public sector employees will amount to JD 90 million additional annual govern-

ment expenditure and will benefit 300,000 employees and 150,000 retired people.

Mr. Jardaneh, however, projects JD 60 million additional revenue and it is therefore expected that in order to remain within the estimated budget deficit for 1993, the raise will amount to JD 10 monthly, or JD 45 million in additional government expenditure.

And, according to Dr. Akaleb, "the government has committed itself to the raise."



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Bush, Yeltsin sign arms agreement

(Continued from page 1)

than 17,000 lives and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

Start II, finalised in feverish diplomacy on both sides, dwarfs previous arms control agreements and makes nonsense of years of stony-faced haggling at disarmament talks during the cold war.

The high moral meaning of this treaty lies in the fact that we will be able to hand over to our children, the children of the 21st century, a more secure world," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"I would call this treaty 'the treaty of hope,'" he added.

As if anticipating criticism from conservatives and sections of the military, the Kremlin leader declared that the treaty would strengthen, not weaken, Russian security.

Russia would still retain a "powerful shield" to protect it against unexpected aggression from any quarter.

The towering Russian president, who suffered a major defeat last month when parliament forced him to sack his radical prime minister, acknowledged that some deputies opposed START II. But he said he was certain the pact would win ratification.

Mr. Bush recalled that the threat of nuclear war had seemed "imminent and at times practically inevitable" through decades of cold war confrontation. "We stand together in this great city at the threshold of a new world of hope," he said.

The two presidents, keen to back in the glory of START II, toasted each other with champagne in the lavish St. Vladimir's Hall of the Kremlin, a high-

ceilinged octagonal chamber whose walls are faced with delicate pink marble.

Mr. Bush, 68, still smarting at his election defeat by Mr. Clinton in November, wants to end his presidency on an historic note.

Mr. Yeltsin, 61, wants to bury memories of his humiliation by the Congress of People's Deputies and restore his image as the man in charge in the Kremlin.

Outside on Red Square, about 100 hardliners rallied to protest the START II accord. They changed "Yeltsin sold his soul to Bush," and held signs saying "Bush is Satan, get out of Russia."

Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Abu Medeen reported the incident to the Gaza civil administration and said soldier would not reveal his or his commander's name.

The army said it was investigating.

Israeli settlers went on a rampage in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron Saturday, smashing shop windows and car windcreens and puncturing tyres, military sources said.

About 100,000 Jewish settlers live in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Hebron is the only Palestinian town with Jewish settlers living within its limits and residents often complain of settler rampages.

No arrests were made and Hebron police launched an investigation into the riot, the military sources said.

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PERTH (AP) — Brother-sister combination Andrei Medvedev and Natalia Medvedeva made a spectacular Hopman Cup debut Sunday, lifting Ukraine to a 2-1 victory over seventh-seeded Austria in the team tennis tournament at the Burswood Superdome.

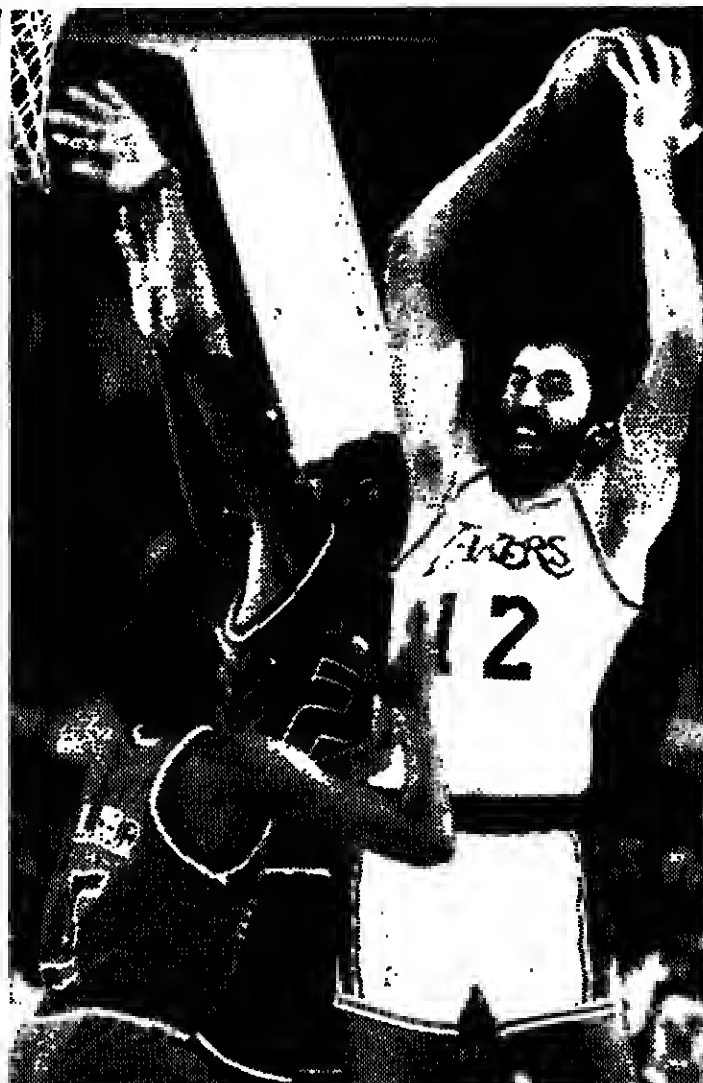
Judith Wiesner beat Medvedeva 6-1, 6-4 in just 76 minutes in the opening women's singles but Medvedev leveled the contest with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Thomas Muster.



It was one of the few bright spots in a year that saw the

Such, 25, beat four top 10-ranked players in the Grand Slam Cup — Stefan Edberg, Richard

Top-seeded Germany faces Ukraine in its Hopman Cup opener Tuesday.



Clippers beat Knicks on overtime buzzer

Rookie Shaquille O'Neal had 29 points and 15 rebounds but

The 6,000 fans at Hartlepool



Marlow decided to give no home advantage and play its third round game at Tottenham's white hart lane. Nick Barmby and Vin place Aberdeen was held 0-0 at home by Dundee so Rangers has a five-point Lead with a game in hand.

Panel 1: A man in a checkered shirt looks out a window at rain. A speech bubble says: "I DOUBT IF THAT LAD WILL COME TO FIX THE ROOF TILES TODAY, IT'S POURING WITH RAIN".

Panel 2: A man in a patterned shirt looks out the same window. A speech bubble says: "PROBABLY NOT, PET - IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TO PUT 'EM OFF, DOES IT -?"

Panel 3: A man in a patterned shirt looks out a window. A speech bubble says: "NOT LIKE IT WAS MY DAY".

Panel 4: A man in a patterned shirt looks out a window. A speech bubble says: "WHICH DAY WAS THAT, EXACTLY?"

At the bottom of the comic strip, it says: "© 1999 BY UNIVERSAL UFA GERMANY GMBH, UFA FILMS GERMANY GMBH AND UFA FILMS INC."

DREAM

WOW!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

OH BOY! I JUST DREAMED A GREAT INVENTION! THERE IT WAS ALL PLANNED OUT FOR ME IN MY DREAM!

THIS IS GONNA MAKE ME FAMOUS!

DREAM

WELL, THERE IT IS! EXACTLY LIKE I DREAMED!

WHAT'S IT SUPPOSED TO BE?

GOSH, I OUNNO!

PIERRE S. DE BEAUMONT

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 4, 1993

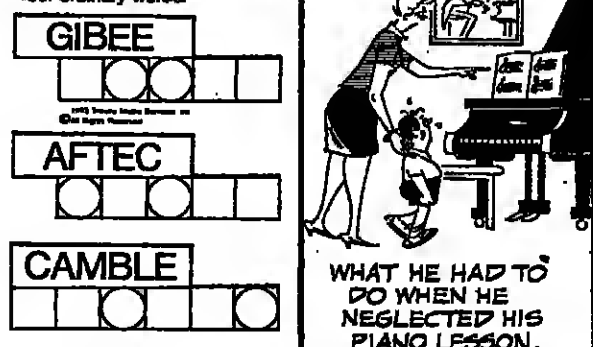
VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Whatever you have in mind that requires some financial outlay for pleasure should be postponed until after the 20th. You

By Harris



"I'm bored, restless, depressed, disenchanted and hopeless. But aside from that, I'm very happy."

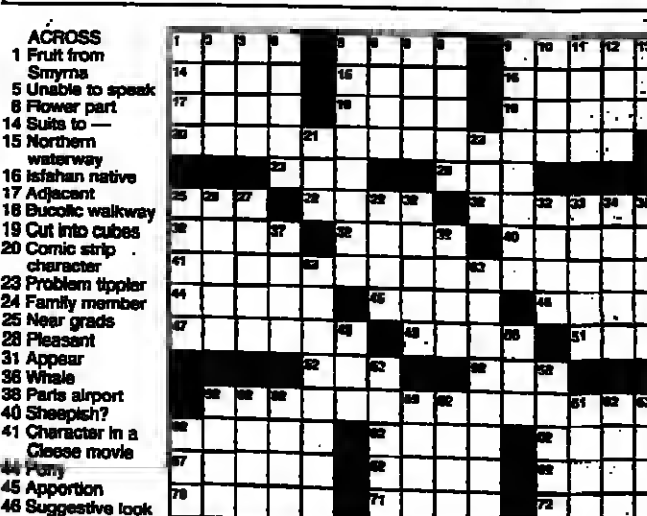
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



SHAUTI

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: THE



47 Enlarge
49 Tape
51 Patched
52 Obtain

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9 Circus Feature

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

**WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANNAH HIRSCH**
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CHOOSE YOUR POISON

North-South vulnerable. West game was unlikely unless North could act freely over two spades.

NORTH
 ♠ Q
 ♥ K J 7 4 3
 ♦ 10 8 8 5

WEST	EAST
♠ K 9 8 6	♠ 5 3
♥ 10 5 2	♥ A 9 8 6
♦ A 7 3	♦ J 6 4
♣ J 10 5	♣ K Q 7 2

♠ J 10 5 ♣ K 9 7 3
 SOUTH
 ♠ A J 10 7 4 2
 ♥ Q
 ♦ K Q 2

♠ A 8 4 queen would be an entry to dummy! East found a way to protect all the defenders' equity by leading the 13th club. If declarer discarded a diamond

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♠
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 ♣

Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♣
The ruff-and-sluff has been stig-
matized as a defensive crime. Al-
though that holds true for a large

Since the queen of hearts was of doubtful value, we think South's jump to three spades was a trifle aggressive. With a six-loser hand

54	Tote	10	The Red	DEFT	ASREE	RELI
56	Disneyland	11	S. Am. rodent	AXLE	DUELS	OLEG

character	12 Dill, old style	TIES WOULD GO
64 Telephone word	13 Hat	THIS WOULD GO
65 Longfellow, for one	21 Electrified particle	ETERNITY EFFECT
66 Grasp	22 Bath towel	JOY KNEE
67		BEARS REITERATE
		ALLER

67 Korean, e.g.	designation	ALLIES SHIT HOW
68 Ireland, once	25 Land or sea end	TANG PASTA SING
69 Beechirch	26 Repair once	ETE PRLE TANCE
70 Resounding	again	SERLESS BORE
blow	27 Assigned task	ERLE PEAR
71 Winter vehicle	29 Prepare for	CHERU ALASAM

72 Goals

DOWN

1 Rattler's
weapon

2 Virginia willow

30 Mr. Fudd

32 Racetrack
shape

33 — and dined

34 Rooster

ARLO TOLER BOON
ARLO ROYAL TENG
ADAM DEANS STEV

3 Engineer	34 Beneath	48 Poor grade	58 Family group
3 Equipment	35 Arctic explorer	50 Total	59 Labor
4 Pioneers	37 It, city	53 Does office	60 At this place
5 Removal by editor	38 Abominable Snowman	55 Ninny	61 On top of
8 River to Caspian	42 Oriental trade	56 Fit together	62 Stated
7 Tend	45 Central	57 Mother of	63 Building windows
8 Sunder snow	46		

Bosnian Muslims wary of peace plan

President raises objections to Owen-Vance proposal

GENEVA (R) — Bosnia's Muslim-led government raised objections Sunday to an international peace plan for the republic, saying it would enshrine ethnic division and lead to more bloodshed.

Mediator Lord Owen warned of an upsurge of fighting if face-to-face negotiations that started Saturday between the warring Muslim, Serb and Croat communities failed.

The government said in a statement on the plan that it "does not accept the constitutional institutionalisation of the ethnic division of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

It declared: "This approach lies at the foundation of the (Serb) aggression and ethnic cleansing and will not stop, but only generate, war."

The statement was issued as Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, had his first face-to-face bilateral talks with rebel Serb leader Radovan Karadzic since the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic erupted nine months ago.

Both were stern-faced as they went into the meeting, chaired by European Community (EC) representative Owen and his fellow mediator Cyrus Vance.

The talks, due to last until Tuesday and resume a week later, are widely regarded as a final chance of averting international intervention that could wreck any hopes for peace.

"All the signs are that fighting will be extremely ferocious in the aftermath of a failed conference," Lord Owen told a news conference Sunday.

Lord Owen and Mr. Vance presented the plan for discussion at the first direct negotiations between the three parties.

Under the proposals, Bosnia would be divided into 10 autonomous provinces with about half the country formally assigned to the country's powerful Serbs.

The three sides, represented by Mr. Izetbegovic, his nominal Croat ally Mate Boban, and Mr. Karadzic, were asked to submit any objections before negotiations resumed Sunday.

The Bosnian government delegation submitted a list of objections to mediators.

It rejected a proposal to make Sarajevo an "open city" under the joint control of Muslims, Serbs and Croats and asked for a map delineating 10 autonomous regions in post-war Bosnia to be redrawn.

Mr. Izetbegovic has been careful not to reject the Vance and Owen plan outright and risk being blamed for sabotaging the Geneva talks.

"It's a basis for negotiation but it needs many, many corrections," he said of the plan Sunday.



Bosnian refugees demonstrate outside the Palais de Nations where the three warring committees of Bosnia-Herzegovina are holding their first face-to-face meeting (AFP photo)

Mr. Karadzic, sounding a more positive note, said the plan was "not perfect but not to be refused."

Diplomats say the Muslims, immersed in a wrangle with their Croat allies at home, have least to gain from a political settlement when intervention to thwart the Serbs may be only weeks away.

Mr. Izetbegovic's chief political adviser, Hajrudin Sumun, said the Vance and Owen plan, creating provinces with clear ethnic majorities, could lead to the break-up of Bosnia because central government would be too weak.

Mr. Sumun said the government's aim was "to have one independent modern state with both a powerful (central) government and powerful provinces — but not to give anyone a chance to divide Bosnia."

He added: "If you have a confederation then everyone will ask tomorrow to have referendums to join Serbia and Croatia."

Little fighting was reported across Bosnia, but it was not clear whether the violence had stopped, or whether it was more difficult to detect because of heavy snow.

But cold weather and the interruption to aid distribution caused by war was taking its toll.

Bosnian radio reported late Saturday that seven people had died from cold and hunger in Srebrenica, a Muslim town in eastern Bosnia surrounded by Serbs and reached only with difficulty by U.N. aid convoys.

In the nearby village of Konjevic Polje and Cerska, hunger and cold were also claiming victims among more than 40,000 refugees who had crowded in and had not received any aid.

Moellemann resigns

BONN (R) — German Economics Minister and Vice-Chancellor Juergen Moellemann announced his resignation Sunday after acknowledging that he had sent letters on official notepaper promoting a product manufactured by a cousin.

Mr. Moellemann, a member of the Liberal Free Democrats (FDP), told a news conference he was not guilty of any wrongdoing but was stepping down to avoid further damaging controversy.

"In view of the importance which I attach to the office of economics minister, especially at this time, I believe it would not be compatible with my understanding of the office to burden the exercise of the office with the public rows that would probably be unavoidable if I remained in the ministry," he said.

"I therefore informed the chancellor, (Helmut Kohl), this morning that I will submit my resignation."

Christian Democrat leader Kohl, whose relationship with Mr. Moellemann was not always smooth, accepted the resignation but did not express regret.

"I respect his decision and I thanked him for his work in the government in the last 10 years," Mr. Kohl said in a short statement, adding that he had asked Mr. Moellemann to stay on until a successor was appointed.

The chancellor is expected to announce a long-planned cabinet reshuffle later in January, which marks a mid-point in the centre-right cabinet's four-year term.

The weekly news magazine Der Spiegel said in a report released Saturday that Mr. Moellemann's probable successor would be Birgit Breuel, head of the Treuhander privatisation agency which is selling off former state-owned firms in East Germany.

The government denied Der Spiegel's assertion that Mr. Kohl planned to drop Finance Minister Theo Waigel in the reshuffle but did not comment on the possibility of Mr. Breuel joining the government.

In an apparent acknowledgement that his career in the first division of German politics was at an end, Mr. Moellemann, 47, also announced that he would not seek election as FDP leader.

Openly ambitious, he had long made no secret of his desire to succeed Otto Lamborff on his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Moellemann's withdrawal leaves Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel as the strongest contender for leadership of a small but influential party which has been the kingmaker of German politics for most of the post-war period.

Mr. Moellemann had faced mounting pressure to resign after he admitted two weeks ago that letters bearing his signature were sent to leading supermarket chains recommending a security system for shopping trolleys produced by his cousin's company.

After originally saying the letters were sent without his knowledge by an aide using pre-signed blank paper, Mr. Moellemann changed his account of events at Sunday's news conference.

He said he had signed the letters personally as part of a pile of documents submitted for his signature and blamed overwork for his failure to realise what he was signing.

He had given his support to the project because the trolley devices were to be manufactured by handicapped people, but this fact had unfortunately been omitted from the letters.

COLUMN

FBI recovers stolen painting

PHOENIX (AP) — Two men arrested in an undercover sting were trying to sell a painting they claimed was a stolen Picasso worth \$10 million to \$12 million. The FBI says. "Perhaps it is, it appears to be the painting. We don't know," FBI spokesman Jack Callahan said at a news conference.

FBI officials said agents locally had little information about the painting other than 1983 New York newspaper clippings that said a Pablo Picasso painting titled La Mujer Spanish for The Woman was stolen in 1983 from a New York City apartment. Two men were arrested in suburban Scottsdale after they produced the painting, the FBI said. FBI agent Jack Hunt said agents posing as insurance company representatives trying to recover the painting started negotiations with the men several weeks ago. No price had been agreed upon for the 26-inch-by-30-inch (66-centimetre by 75 centimetre) painting.

Tomatoes used to produce medicine

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese researchers reported Thursday they have succeeded in producing a blood pressure lowering substance in tomatoes by infecting them with a virus. The researchers said it was the first time that a plant has been used to produce medicine by exposing it to genetically altered virus. The report was made by a nine member research group from Teikyo University and Kanebo Ltd., a major spinning firm, at a meeting of the Japan Molecular Biology Association in the western city of Kyoto. The group said it had infected mini-tomatoes with a genetically manipulated tobacco mosaic virus that does not affect humans. Part of the virus that allows it to enter the cells of its host was combined with the genes of a blood pressure lowering substance taken from cow's genes, they said. The combination was applied to the leaves of the tomatoes, and the virus, including the blood pressure substance, then infected and spread through the entire plant, including the fruit. The researchers said it has not previously been possible to introduce a manipulated virus into the fruit of a plant. They said they were able to extract about 0.01 milligrams of medicine from each 10-gram fruit. At the present stage of development, a meal of several hundred infected mini-tomatoes would be needed for a dose of medicine large enough to have an effect on high blood pressure, the researchers said. But the method of a carrier virus could be applied to other experiments, the report added.

After Christmas misery, woman wins lottery

MELBOURNE (R) — An Australian mother of four who could not afford a Christmas present for herself won 1.5 million Australian dollars (U.S. \$1 million) in a state lottery on Tuesday. "It has been a Christmas we will never forget," the woman said in a statement. Lottery officials have not released her name. The woman could afford only one Christmas present for each of her four children and a pair of shoes for her husband but nothing for herself. "We have been struggling for years. We have nearly lost our home a couple of times because of debt problems," she said. "There is no way I can understand what having \$1.5 million dollar means, as 200 dollars is a lot of money to me."

2 arrested in Princeton's annual naked snow run

PRINCETON, New Jersey (AP) — Two Princeton University students were arrested Sunday on charges of stealing from a convenience store during the "nude Olympics." About 250 students at the Ivy League school took part in the annual naked run, held on the first snowfall of the school year. "This is an activity that we don't condone, but it's pretty hard to enforce against," university spokesman Justin Harmon said of the event that began in the 1970s. Thirty-one students were arrested last year. This year strikers bolted off campus shortly after midnight and dashed into a local business centre. About 50 runners made their way through a restaurant and 75 descended on a convenience store. They knocked merchandise off shelves and poured soda on the floor, police said. A large banner valued at \$50, a clock and other items were stolen, police reported. Minutes later, police said, two students returned to the store, one holding the banner and the other carrying a gallon of ice cream. They were arrested.

START II is latest in line of historic arms accords

MOSCOW (R) — The arms reduction treaty signed Sunday, described by President George Bush as the most significant arms reduction treaty ever, will slash nuclear arsenals by more than two-thirds.

It brings Russia back to 1970s weapons levels and the United States back to the 1960s. The two military superpowers now have approximately 21,000 atomic warheads between them.

The new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) accord obliges both sides to reduce their strategic arsenals to 3,000-3,500 warheads by Jan. 1, 2003 at the latest.

All land-based systems with multiple warheads — including the 10-warhead Russian SS-18 missile — are to be eliminated.

START-II builds on a long history of arms accords and arms summits between Moscow and Washington, including several other major pacts achieved during Mr. Bush's tenure:

- July 30-31, 1991 — Mr. Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Moscow, sign the first Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START-I) reducing stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons by as much as 30 per cent.
- Nov. 19, 1990 — Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev meet in Paris for a diplomatic summit to sign with other world leaders the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty making historic cuts in East-West conventional forces.
- December 1987 — President Ronald Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev meet in Washington and sign the second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT-II) limiting nuclear missiles, bombers and cruise missiles. The treaty is never ratified by the U.S. Senate but is informally observed by both sides until late 1986.
- June-July 1974 — In Moscow, a month before Richard Nixon resigns under threat of impeachment in the Watergate scandal, he and Mr. Brezhnev sign accords limiting the power of underground nuclear tests.

May 1972 — Mr. Nixon and Mr. Brezhnev open an era of "détente" during the first Moscow visit by an incumbent U.S. president. They sign SALT-I, the first pact limiting U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty limiting each side's deployment of defensive systems.

START-II at a glance

Here are the main points of the START-II given by the Russian Foreign Ministry:

- Implementation will be achieved in two stages up to the year 2003; interim ceilings are to be reached in the first seven years after the treaty enters into force.
- By Jan. 1, 2003, the total number of strategic nuclear warheads held by each side is to have been reduced to 3,000-3,500 units. This means the elimination of 15,000 of the two sides' current combined arsenals of 21,000 warheads.
- Land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) with multiple warheads are to be eliminated.
- Each side will cut the number of warheads on submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs) to a level of 1,700-1,750 units.
- Limits are to be imposed on the number of warheads with which heavy bombers on each side can be equipped, varying from 750 to 1,250 units of any type.
- Heavy bombers will be subject to a "real counting" of the number of warheads with which they are equipped to carry according to the type of aircraft involved.
- Each side has the right to reassign up to 100 heavy bombers for non-nuclear tasks. These aircraft will not be counted in the overall fixed levels.

Scientist claims Kennedy shot from rear

NARRAGANSETT, Rhode Island (R) — The home movie of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy reveals that he was shot in the head from the rear — not from the front — as several assassination theories claim, a scientist said Saturday.

University of Rhode Island chemist Kenneth Rahn said he analysed the dramatic film by Abraham Zapruder and found that at the instant Mr. Kennedy was hit — a moment marked by the cloud of blood that appears around the face — the president's head snapped forward 6.5 centimetres.

It is not until a fraction of a second later, after the bullet passed through Mr. Kennedy's skull, that the president began to lurch backwards and to the right, he said.

That movement has convinced many people that the fatal shot must have come from a grassy knoll to Mr. Kennedy's right.

But Mr. Rahn, who usually studies the path of pollution particles in the atmosphere, said the laws of physics make it impossible for a bullet to move a target after it has finished passing through.

Mr. Kennedy's backward lurch does not begin until about a 10th of a second after the bullet passed through, Mr. Rahn said, a delay consistent with the time it would take for reflexes to make his body jump back involuntarily.

Mr. Rahn became intrigued by the assassination movie after watching director Oliver Stone's controversial film "J.F.K."

"There's no doubt that Oliver Stone believed," that the fatal shot came from the front "and now there's no doubt he blew it big time," said Mr. Rahn.

A spokesman said the filmmaker was tied up with a new project and declined to comment.

Mr. Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, was also struck in the throat before being shot in the head.

Mr. Rahn's theory is consistent with the Warren Commission's findings, which said the shot that hit Mr. Kennedy in the head came from above and to the rear: The commission concluded that Mr. Kennedy was killed by a lone gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Many conspiracy theories assert that Mr. Kennedy was killed by a shot from the front, but Mr. Rahn said the forward snap of Mr. Kennedy's head, seen on frames 312 and 313 of the Zapruder film, destroys most of these theories.

Mr. Rahn said it is still possible there was more than one assassin. But if other assassins pulled the trigger, he said, there is no convincing evidence their shots made any difference.

Mr. Rahn said his analysis required little more than a basic background in physics, a laser-cut version of "J.F.K." — which permitted the detailed, frame-by-frame analysis of the Zapruder film — and tracing paper to compare the motion of Mr. Kennedy's head to immobile objects in the scene.

Cable break foils robot's descent into volcano

WASHINGTON (R) — A robot's descent into a fiery Antarctic volcano to determine the makeup of its molten crater was scrubbed Saturday after the fibre optic cable guiding the device broke, a mission spokeswoman said.

The team has decided to pack it up and come on home. There's nothing they can do without a new cable," said Randee Exler, a spokeswoman at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Goddard space centre.

Ms. Exler said scientists had determined the experiment could be conducted only within a specific time frame and that could not be met by the time a new optic cable arrived.

She did not say how long it would have taken the team to get a new cable.

The robot, called Dante, began its descent Friday and walked about six metres down into the crater of the active volcano Mount Erebus before the rupture of the cable, linking the 450-kilogram robot with its base on the crater rim.

Ms. Exler said Dante was still dangling in the same position. It was not immediately known when it would be hauled up or when the team would return.

Despite the failure of Dante to reach the 230 metre deep crater, NASA called the mission "an unqualified success" and met two of its goals.

On Thursday, satellite connection was made between the 2.5-metre robot and the Goddard controllers and they were able to operate Dante's cameras as it sat on the rim of Mount Erebus.

Another success was Dante's first steps down the crater, showing the remote-controlled robot could perform in an environment as harsh as that in Antarctica.

The part of the mission the team was unable to accomplish was the scientific portion, in which Dante was to determine the makeup of the volcano's molten crater and its gases, as well as test if a similar eight-legged remote control robot could explore the Moon and Mars.

It was hoped Dante's efforts would help determine the makeup of the gases the bubbling volcano throws up and how they might affect earth's atmosphere.

Scientists said no way had yet been found to analyse them at their molten source.

They think the gases from Erebus and other volcanoes in the region contribute to the growing ozone hole over the Antarctic, which allows increased cancer-causing ultraviolet rays to reach the Earth's surface.

The robot was named Dante for the poet Dante Alighieri, whose Divine Comedy's most known section is "The Inferno." In it, the 14th century Italian described a descent into Erebus, the mythological hell.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Officials arrested for Taiwan 'vote-rigging'

TAIPEI (AP) — Three more election supervisors were arrested in a growing scandal over alleged vote-rigging in Taiwan's parliamentary elections last month, prosecutors reported Sunday. Prosecutors in Hualien, a port city 180 kilometres southeast of Taipei, said other officials may be implicated in the scandal in which a recount of votes showed the number of ballots cast at polling stations exceeded by 738 the number of registered voters. Hualien Mayor Wei Mu-Tsun, a member of the governing Nationalist Party, won the election, defeating Huang Hsin-Chieh, former chairman of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, by 62 votes. The three arrested Saturday night and another polling station supervisor arrested Friday are all officials of Mr. Wei's Hualien city government.

Greenpeace fails to find plutonium ship

TOKYO (R) — The Greenpeace environmental group searched in vain off Japan Sunday for a Japanese freighter carrying plutonium from France, while Greenpeace and other activist groups geared up to protest its imminent arrival in port. A chartered aircraft flew over the sea near Hachijo Island, about 300 kilometres south of Tokyo, for three hours. Greenpeace Japan Executive Director Naoki Obara said. "It is too bad. We could not find any sign of the Akatsuki Maru... we will try again tomorrow," Mr. Obara said. The Akatsuki Maru left the French port of Cherbourg on Nov. 7 with 1.7 tonnes of plutonium. It is expected to arrive at the port of Tokai, 120 kilometres northeast of Tokyo, on Tuesday morning, according to environmentalist and government sources.

Vietnam asked to release prisoners

HANOI (R) — The U.S.-based human rights group Asia Watch said Sunday that a Vietnamese academic and his associates have been detained for peacefully expressing their views and urged Hanoi to free them. Asia Watch said Doan Viet Hoat and several others had been detained since 1990 by Vietnam for circulating a newsletter called Freedom Forum. "Although some of the writings included criticism of government policies and various proposals for political reform, none advocated violent overthrow of the government," it said in a report. Prior to his latest arrest, Mr. Hoat, a teacher at the university of agriculture and forestry in Ho Chi Minh City, his wife and youngest son had been approved to emigrate to the United States, where his two older sons already live. "However, U.S. officials have declined to proceed with the mother and child's emigration since Dr. Hoat's detention," Asia Watch said. The United States has begun a delicate process of normalising ties with Hanoi, severed at the end of the Vietnam war.

Uganda sets presidential polls

KAMPALA (R) — Uganda will hold its first direct presidential elections in 1994, President Yoweri Museveni said. "We shall have presidential elections in 1994. That's for sure," Mr. Museveni told reporters in the western Ugandan town of Mbarara Saturday. He was speaking after receiving the report of a constitutional commission which last week recommended the continued suspension of political parties in Uganda for at least the next seven years. Mr. Museveni has been in power since his guerrilla army overthrew a military government in 1986. His National Resistance Movement (NRM) contains members of several political parties, but they are not allowed to operate independently.

Bangladesh opposition boycotts parliament

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's major opposition parties boycotted the opening of the winter session of parliament Sunday despite a plea for unity from President Abdul Rahman Biswas. A total of 133 opposition members boycotted the opening in their traditional protest against figurehead Biswas, whom they accuse of helping the Pakistani military crackdown in former East Pakistan 21 years ago. Those absent included the Awami League, headed by Sheikh Hasina, and the Jatiya Party of former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad. "We cannot hear a tailor-made sermon from someone who was a razzak (Pakistani collaborator)," said Mohammad Nasim, opposition chief whip in parliament. Jatiya acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said the boycott was directed at the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for ignoring their demand for the release of Mr. Ershad, serving a 13-year jail sentence.

Cash takes on political hue in African conflicts

By Gill Tudor
Reuters

GBARNGA, Liberia — Pull out the wrong kind of dollars in war-torn Liberia and you face arrest or maybe worse.

Mind your shillings in Mogadishu. And if you're accepting one of Zaire's new five-million-Zaire banknotes, make sure the opposition isn't watching.

Cash has taken on a political hue in African countries riven by war or political strife.

In Liberia, five-dollar currency notes in circulation before the start of the three-year-old civil war are now legal tender only in areas held by Charles Taylor's rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL).

The green notes, obviously modelled on U.S. currency, are known as J.J.s because they bear a portrait of Liberia's first president, J.J. Roberts.

On the other side of the lines, Monrovia's interim government introduced new five-

dollar notes last January to crack down on the circulation of stolen money.

Most of Liberia's banks were looted in 1990 at the height of the war, and the interim government feared millions of dollars' worth of stolen currency was being stored abroad, ready to be shipped back at an opportune time.

The new "liberty" notes bear the Liberian coat of arms in place of Roberts, with the national motto "The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here," but are otherwise identical to the old ones.

Mr. Taylor, who controls most of Liberia including its lucrative rubber, timber and iron ore resources, immediately outlawed liberty dollars in his territory.

NPFL officials say anyone caught trying to pass the new notes in what Mr. Taylor calls "Greater Liberia" would be arrested for economic sabotage. No cases have yet been brought but the punishment would be tough.

In exchange terms J.J.s are stronger than liberty dollars, trading at around 7.50 to the U.S. dollar compared with about 25 to the U.S. dollar for the capital's cash.

NPFL officials say this reflects more confidence in their currency and also point out that J.J.s are in fixed supply, whereas the interim government can print more of its new notes.

An almost identical situation has held on the other side of the continent in the Somali capital Mogadishu, divided by clan warfare into two main zones until a recent truce.

In the south, held by warlord Mohammad Farah Aideded, people use the orange and purple 1,000-shilling notes in circulation before dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

The northern sector of the wrecked capital, controlled by General Aideded's main rival Ali Mahdi Mohammad, uses new 20 shilling notes which were apparently ordered by

Mr. Siad Barre two years ago but flown in from the British printers last June.

Furious that the money might bolster his rival and undermine his own finances, Gen. Aideded declared that anyone found using the new notes in his zone would be executed.

The delivery of several tonnes of crisp cash also caused a major row between Gen. Aideded and the United Nations, briefly endangering efforts to ease Africa's worst famine this century.

The warlord threatened to stop deployment of U.N. peacekeeping observers after the notes were flown into northern Mogadishu on a maverick Russian plane, which was previously chartered by the U.N. and still carried its markings.

In Zaire, a new five-million-Zaire banknote has become a prop in a power struggle between strongarm President Mobutu Sese Seko and his

arch-enemy, reformist Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

The pro-Mobutu Central Bank of Zaire issued the new high denomination note — worth less than \$3.00 — on Dec. 1.

Mr. Tshisekedi promptly declared it was not legal tender, accusing Mr. Mobutu of deliberately stoking hyperinflation to undermine reforms which could end the president's 27-year rule.

Zaire's economy is on its knees after years of corruption and mismanagement, compounded by army-led looting last year that devastated several cities.

Opposition supporters have boycotted the new notes, despite a chronic shortage of money in Zaire's cash-starved banks.

Activists have made bank-note bonfires.

Undaunted by its critics, the Bank of Zaire has announced it will introduce a 10-million-Zaire note soon.